

HONEGGERS' & CO., INC. OF FAIRBURY, ILLINOIS

by

Dale C. Maley

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Honeggers' & Co., Inc. of Fairbury, Illinois

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Foreword

Fairbury is a small town located in Central Illinois. It is 100 miles south of Chicago and 60 miles east of Peoria. It was founded in 1857 when the railroad first crossed Central Illinois. In 1925, brothers Frank and Sam Honegger visited the Illinois State Fair. At the fair, they bought a hammer-mill for grinding grain into livestock feed. Their neighbor farmers tried their feed and liked it. The two brothers formed Honeggers and Co. in 1933.

The company kept expanding its business and eventually became a publicly owned corporation. The maximum employment of the company was about 500 people. They had a company fleet of four airplanes. Their poultry hatchery operations were global in nature. Unfortunately, the company ceased operations in 1989 after 56 years of business.

It is hoped this book helps to inform current Fairbury and Forrest residents about how important Honeggers and Co. was to the development and growth of the Fairbury area. Many current Fairbury citizens live in the Fairbury area because their parents or grandparents came to this area to work for Honeggers' & Co.

Acknowledgments

The author would like to thank the Fairbury Echoes Museum for the use of many Honeggers' items in their collection.

The author would also like to thank Diane Pawlowski, Louis Retter, Carl Borngasser, Ron Schlipf, Fred and Margaret Wing, Dorothy Roth, Lisa Roth, Mark Steffen, Brent Honegger, and Steve Rieger.

Author's Farm Background

The author grew up on a farm about four miles northwest of Fairbury. This farm started with a small building with 500 laying chickens. Then a second building of another 500 chickens was added.

Circa 1968, a large building with the capacity of 7,000 layers was purchased from Honeggers'. This building used wire cages to contain the chickens. The author's father and three siblings gathered the eggs each day. The eggs were then washed and sold to various local outlets.

This building was then converted to a hog confinement building. The concrete slats used in this building were purchased from a division of Honeggers'. This hog confinement building was in service for many years before it finally burned down.

CHAPTER 1

Book Design

Company Founders Not Available for Interviews

The two principal founders of Honeggers & Co. were brothers Frank and Sam Honegger. They both have been deceased for many years. They obviously were not available for personal interviews about the company history.

Historical Financial Records Not Available

The company went out of business in 1989, or approximately 30 years ago. No official records from the company now exist.

Honeggers' & Co. Inc. initially started as a partnership between the two men noted above. In 1942, they added Ben Roth to the partnership. In 1947, they converted the company to a privately held corporation. Then the company became a public corporation in 1958 with their common stock traded on the Over-the-Counter (OTC) market.

When it was a publicly held corporation, the company issued annual reports to comply with SEC regulations. A copy of the 1960 Annual Report is included in this book as an example of one of these annual reports.

The Fairbury Echoes Museum has a copy of the 1960 Annual Report. Copies of Annual Reports from other years are probably held by some private individuals and possibly at some libraries.

Honeggers' & Co. Inc. Existed in the Era Before the Internet

The Internet became commonly available in 1994. Unfortunately the Annual Reports and stock trading information about Honeggers' & Co. are not available using the Internet.

At one time, Honeggers' & Co. sold farm buildings and erected them on the customer's farm. These buildings were pre-fabricated in a Honeggers' & Co. factory site. Fred Wing, a former employee of the company, loaned a copy of a catalog illustrating all the different types of buildings that were offered to customers.

1969 Evalsizer Thesis

Mr. Dennis Evalsizer wrote a thesis paper about Honeggers' & Co. in 1969 as part of fulfilling a Master of Science degree at ISU. Mr. Evalsizer had extensive access to company records and employees when he wrote his paper. Fortunately, the Fairbury Echoes Museum has preserved a copy of this 50 year old document.

Newspaper Archives

The Pantagraph published many stories about Honeggers' & Co. The archives of the Pantagraph were used to research the history of this company for this book.

The Fairbury Blade newspaper also published many stories about Honeggers' & Co. In a typical year of publication, the Blade published more than 100 stories about this company. If we apply the average of 100 stories per year for all 56 years the company was in business, this means there were over 5,600 different references to the company.

It is not practical to compile and review over 5,000 Blade references to Honeggers' & Co.

Lawsuits

Honeggers' & Co. Inc. became a large regional firm operating in many states with almost 500 employees. The United States is known as a litigious society. As a corporation grows in size and types of business activities, the likelihood of lawsuits increases. Some examples of lawsuits against Honeggers' & Co. Inc. were found using Internet searches.

U.S. Patents

Companies often patent the ideas of their employees. Some examples of patents assigned to Honeggers' & Co. were found using Internet searches.

Leader in Early Use of Computers

Honeggers' & Co. Inc. was one of the early adopters of utilizing computers. They used a mathematical methodology called linear programming to optimize their feed mixes as ingredient prices changed over time. They also used computers for corporate accounting. Louis Retter and Ron Schlipf, former employees of the Computer Department were interviewed for this book.

Chronological Approach to the Book Design

This story is unusual because there are too many Blade historical articles to practically compile and review.

The author made the decision to use a chronological approach to the book design. The book chronologically tells the story of the company founding, its growth and move to Fairbury, the big 1949 fire, the building of the new Fairbury mill in 1950, and the company's demise in 1989.

This book also contains chapters about lawsuits and patents pertaining to Honeggers' & Co. Inc. Since this company was a pioneer in the use of computers, a chapter will explain this unique story. Another chapter will document the many types of pre-fabricated type buildings the company sold to farmers.

Company Anniversary Date

By 1928, Sam and Frank Honegger were selling feed to their neighbors. The initial legal partnership between Sam and Frank Honegger was formed in 1933. Often the Blade newspaper, or the company itself, would celebrate company anniversaries based upon the 1928 date versus the legal partnership date of 1933.

Some Stories Will be Missed

With over 5,000 references to Honeggers' & Co. Inc. in the Blade, some stories about the company will not be included in this book. If you have a unique story that you feel should be included in this book, please contact the author. The author may revise the book if the decision is made to include your story.

CHAPTER 2

The 1969 EVELSIZER Study of Honeggers

Mr. Dennis Lyle EVELSIZER was a teacher at Fairbury-Cropsey High School. In 1969, Mr. EVELSIZER was working on a Master of Science degree at Illinois State University. He wrote a thesis as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for his Master of Science degree. This thesis was titled ***HONEGGER'S: A STUDY IN FEED MANUFACTURING.***

Although this thesis focuses on the technical aspects of feed manufacturing, it contains valuable historical information about Honeggers' & Company, Inc.

Mr. EVELSIZER received permission from Honeggers' & Co. to write this report. As noted in the Acknowledgments section of his thesis paper, he was granted access to the President of Honeggers' & Co., Mr. Clarence S. Bell, as well as the company co-founders, Sam and Frank Honegger. The two co-founders were still alive in 1969 when Mr. EVELSIZER wrote his thesis.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The writer wishes to thank Dr. Fred W. Kohlmeier, Chairman of the Advisory Committee, and Dr. Helen M. Cavanagh, second member of his Advisory Committee, for the assistance, encouragement, and the guidance they have provided during the writing of this thesis.

Appreciation is also extended to Mr. Clarence S. Bell, President of Honeggers' & Co., Inc., for permission to write this thesis and for the cooperation given this author. Without the time freely extended by the president and numerous other individual employees of Honeggers' & Co., Inc., this thesis could not have been written.

Finally, the writer would like to thank his wife, Elsie, whose encouragement, time, and patience insured the completion of this thesis.

D. L. E.

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The Bibliography section of this thesis illustrates the information that Mr. Evelsizer had available to him in 1969 when he wrote this thesis.

Honeggers' Corporate Records

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Interviews

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- Dickey, Mrs. E. F. Wife of E. F. Dickey (deased), former President and General Manager of Honeggers' & Co., Inc., June 27, 1969.
- Honegger, Anna. Sister of the co-founder, unaffiliated with the operation of Honeggers' & Co., Inc., June 19, 1968.
- Honegger, Frank E. Brother and co-founder of Honeggers' & Co., Inc., June 15, 1967 and December 10, 1968.

Deficiencies in The Thesis

Mr. Evelsizer noted he had several deficiencies in his thesis paper.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Methodology and Sources

Any research project is valuable only in the accuracy and appropriateness of the procedures and the techniques employed. Since this is a historical study, the overall procedure followed was that of the historical method which Louis Gottschalk defines as "the critical examination and analysis of the existing records or other survivals of the past."¹ However, the author found the survival of records to be a problem. The author did find large voids in the records concerning Honeggers' & Co., Inc., especially in the years prior to 1946. Most smaller corporations keep records only as long as the minimum required by law because storage space is limited. This was the case of company records for Honeggers' & Co., Inc. The author was unable to obtain any kind of written records, primary or secondary, for the years 1927 through 1946. All reliance therefore for this period was necessarily placed upon verbal statements of the founding brothers, the very few long term employees who remembered the earlier period, and family members still living who also remembered this earlier period. This dearth of sources thus accounts for the fact that the partnership years from 1927 to 1946 are not adequately reconstructed by the author.

Founders

There are several Blade newspaper articles which state that Benjamin A. Roth was one of the founders of the company with brothers Frank and Sam Honegger. In his 1969 Thesis, Mr. Evelsizer reported that Ben Roth was made a partner in the company in 1942. Roth then worked at Honeggers' until he resigned from the company in 1955. It is unknown what specific role Ben Roth played in the company from its founding in 1933 until he became a partner in 1942. As Mr. Evelsizer stated in his thesis, there were no company records available to him from the early years of the company.

Length of Thesis

Mr. Evelsizer's thesis is 104 pages long. It is written in 8.5×11 inch page format.

Availability of the Thesis

A paper copy of this thesis is among the permanent collections of the Fairbury Echoes Museum. A digital copy of this thesis is also available from Archive.Org.

Reference to This Thesis

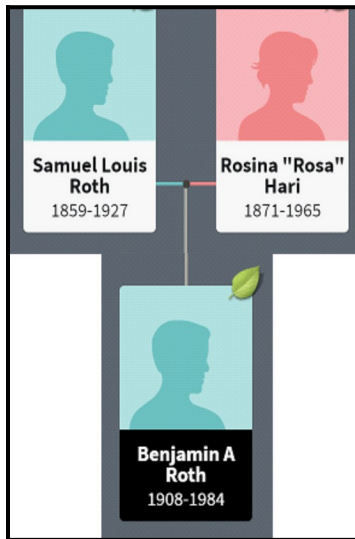
For the remainder of this book, this thesis will be referred to as the Evelsizer 1969 Thesis.

CHAPTER 3

Family Genealogy of Company Founders

The two principal founders of Honeggers & Co. were brothers Frank and Sam Honegger. Benjamin Roth is also called one of the company founders by several Blade stories. Roth's genealogy is shown below.

Benjamin A. Roth

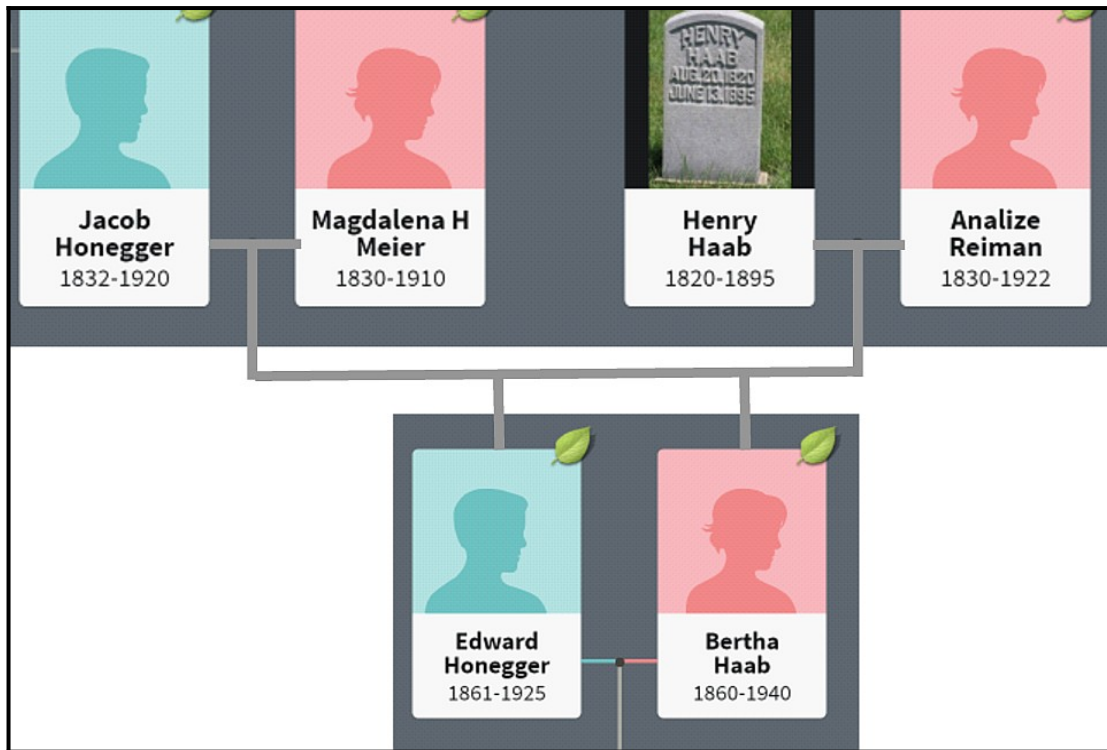


The parents of Benjamin A. Roth were Samuel Louis Roth and Rosa Hari. His father was born in Washington, Illinois. His mother was born in Switzerland. They were married in Livingston County in 1897.

Benjamin was born in Cropsey, Illinois, in 1908.

Frank Elmer Honegger and Samuel R. Honegger

Frank and Sam's parents were Edward Honegger and Bertha Haab. The parents of Edward and Bertha are shown below.



All four of Frank and Sam's grandparents were born in Switzerland.

Benjamin Nussbaum researched and wrote two pamphlets documenting the history of the Apostolic Church in the Fairbury area. In 1973, he published the history of the South Side Apostolic Church. In 1975, he published the history of the North Side Apostolic Church. Both of these documents are available from Archive.Org.

In his 1975 North Side Apostolic Church pamphlet, he published the following entry about Jacob Honegger.

JACOB HONEGGER

Jacob Honegger was born in Switzerland on March 8, 1832. He, with his family, came to America in 1866; settling temporarily in Morton, Illinois, before proceeding to the Forrest region in the following year. He tilled a farm not far from Virkler's in those pre-building years when everyone still met in neighborhood homes.

He had been a minister in Zurich and when the increasing membership became too much of a burden for Rudolph Leuthold alone, he resumed preaching. Some years later, Leuthold, prior to retiring, conferred the North Side Eldership upon him. Honegger also shared, along with Martin Steidinger, the South Side Eldership after Christian Gerber's death in 1910. According to an old issue of "The Silver Lining," he retained these positions until death overtook him at the age of eighty-eight.

Failing health enfeebled him considerably and he encountered difficulty in standing—especially at the pulpit for any protracted time. To overcome this, Reverend John Maurer Senior built a small table between pulpit and Minister's bench that could accommodate his Bible. This allowed Honegger to read and then deliver the sermon from his seated position.

He lived on a farm near the church until his death on November 22, 1920. He is buried in the church cemetery.

The November 26, 1920, the Blade published the obituary for Jacob Honegger.

JACOB HONEGGER

Jacob Honneger, better known to many of the Christian Apostolic people of this community as "Father" Honneger, passed away Monday evening at his home north of Forrest.

The funeral services were held yesterday and were largely attended.

The May 1, 1925, Blade published the obituary for Edward Honegger, father of Frank and Sam Honegger.

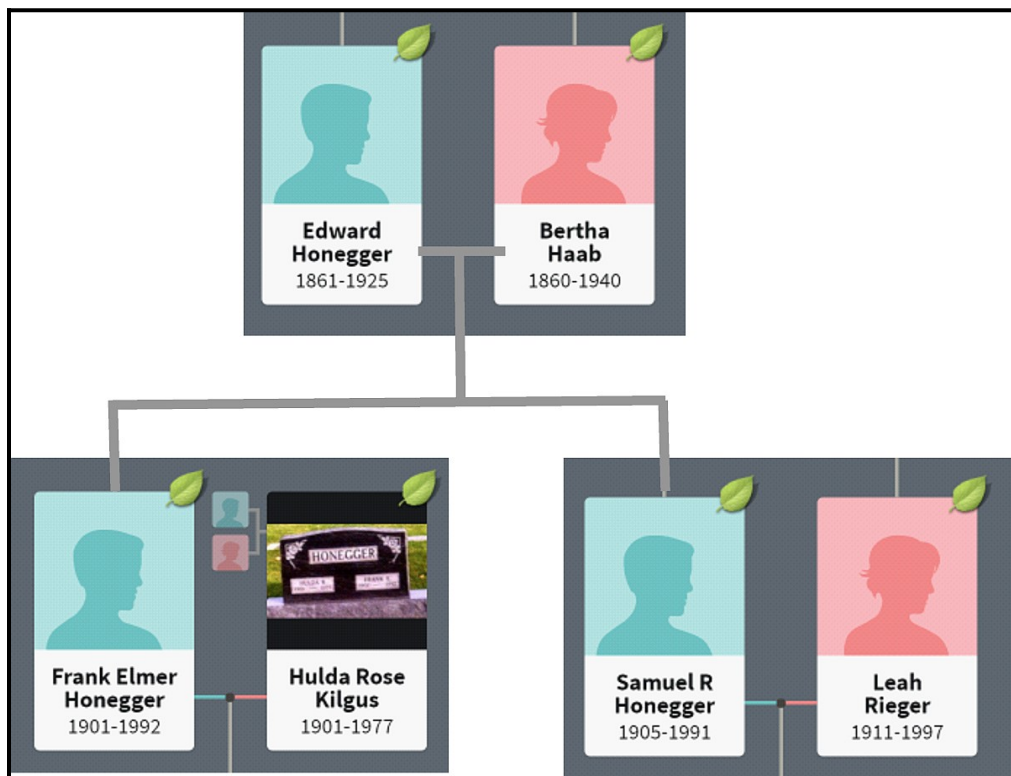
EDWARD HONEGGER

Edward Honegger, who for many years resided in this vicinity, died at his home eight miles southeast of this city, Sunday morning at 11 o'clock, his death being due to a complication of diseases with which he had been afflicted for several months. He was aged 63 years, 3 months, and 25 days.

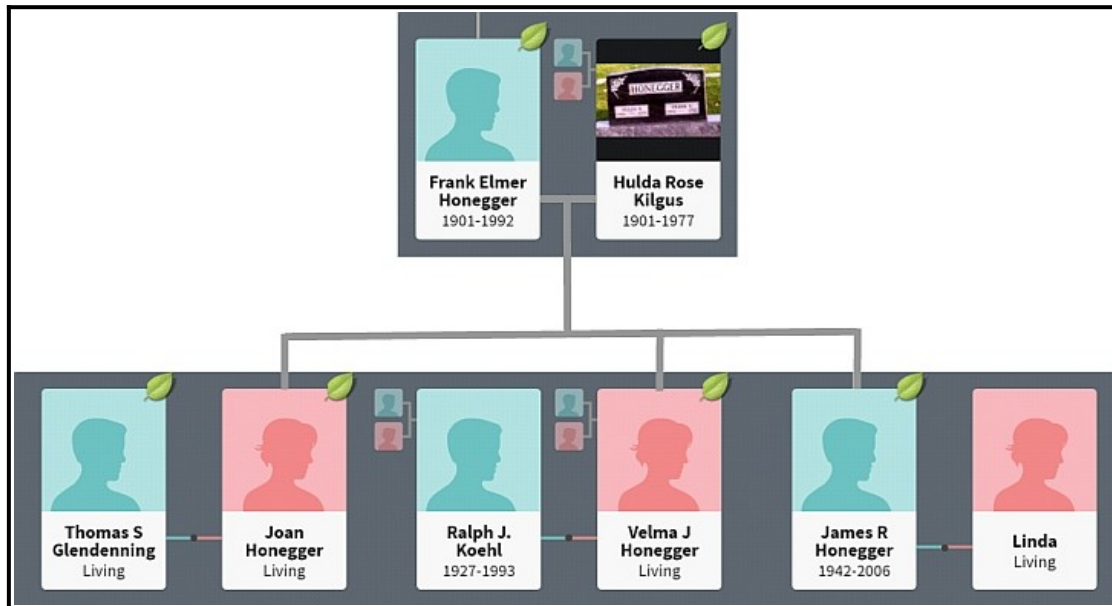
Edward Honegger was born in Switzerland, December 31, 1861, and when five years of age came with his parents to this country. He grew to young manhood in Pleasant Ridge township, and on February 11, 1887, was united in marriage to Bertha Haab, and they immediately went to housekeeping southeast of this city, where they have since resided. Surviving Mr. Honegger are his wife and twelve children.

The funeral services were held from the South Christian Apostolic church Wednesday.

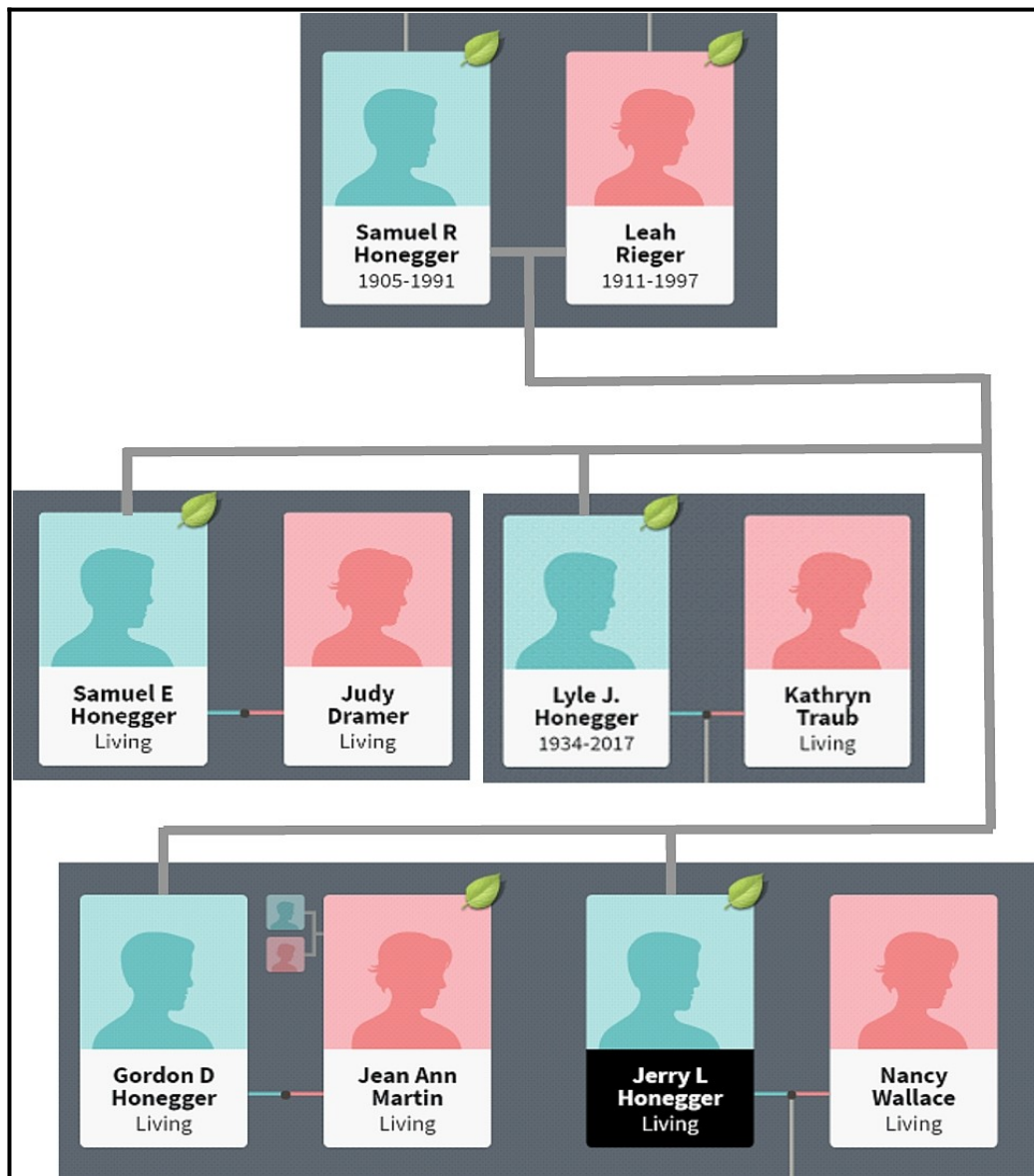
Of the 12 children of Edward and Bertha Honegger, two of them were the main founders of Honeggers & Co. These two were Sam and Frank Honegger.



Frank married Hulda Rose and Sam married Leah Rieger. Frank and Hulda's family is show below.



Sam and Leah's family is shown below:



CHAPTER 4

Company Founding

In the 1920's, Sam and Frank Honegger were raising Guernsey dairy cattle on their farm in Forrest. In either 1925, or 1927, the two brothers borrowed a car and went to the Illinois State Fair in Springfield.

In 1924, the Illinois State Fair expanded its site in Springfield to 366 acres. The invention of the internal combustion engine prompted the invention of many new products for the farm. Manufacturers of farm equipment used the Illinois State Fair to show and demonstrate their new products to farmers.

While at the State Fair, Sam and Frank saw a new hammer-mill for grinding grain into livestock feed. They decided to purchase one of these new hammer-mills for their mother's Forrest dairy farm. They used the hammer-mill to set up a grain milling operation on their farm. In the beginning of their operation, they only had the hammer-mill and a scoop shovel for adding the feed ingredients. They added a wooden box and a churn type mixer powered by a tractor engine. Their mill was so noisy that it could be heard one mile away from their farm.

Sam and Frank found by controlling the ingredients in their cattle feed, they could make their dairy operation one of the most productive in the state. Word-of-mouth about the success of the new feed traveled to farm neighbors of Sam and Frank. The neighbors wanted to try out some of this new feed. Sam and Frank began selling feed to their neighbors.

As their feed business continued to grow, the two brothers decided to create Honeggers & Co. in 1933. Their business structure was a partnership. Sam was 28, and Frank was 32 years of age when they started their company.

CHAPTER 5

Basics of Livestock Farming

Major Valentine Darnall was the first pioneer farmer to settle in Livingston County in 1829. He settled south of Fairbury. In the 1830s and 1840s, a few other settlers arrived in the Fairbury area.

Due to federal government land grants, the bulk of the pioneer farmers arrived in the Fairbury area between 1850 and 1856. Because farming at that time was so labor intensive, most pioneers could only farm 80 or 160 acres.

Livingston County was one of the last areas to be settled in the state of Illinois because it was all swampland. The invention of clay drainage tile in the 1880s transformed Fairbury area farms from worthless swamp ground to some of the most productive land on the planet.

Grain farming is a seasonal affair. Labor is required in the spring to prepare and plant the ground. During the growing season, not much labor is required for the crops. When autumn harvest season arrives, labor is then required to gather the crops. During the winter months, no labor is required for the grain crops.

To supplement their food supply and generate some small amount of cash, many farmers raised a relatively small number of livestock. Chickens provided eggs and could be eaten as well. A few dairy cows could supply the farm with milk. Hogs could be butchered for food or sold at market.

Unlike seasonal grain farming, all livestock require some amount of daily care all year long. Early farmers had enough excess labor during the year, they had time to raise a small amount of livestock.

The 1917 book titled, *The Farmer's Directory of Livingston County by the Prairie Farmer Publishing Company*, has some interesting data on Livingston County farms. This book used 1910 U.S. Census data in the statistics section of the book. The book recounted there were 3,969 farms in Livingston County. The average acres per farm was 160 acres. On average, each farm had 9 horses, 7 head of cattle, 10 hogs, and 102 chickens.

All livestock also requires feed. The most effective feed is grain that has been milled and it mixed with other ingredients. It was not economical for an individual farmer to make the large capital investment for a grain mill. Most farmers bought this feed from local distributors. Many farmers bought feed from their local small-town Honegger feed dealer.

Some grain farmers decided to try to increase their income by raising larger numbers of cattle, hogs, or chickens. The highest expense involved with raising livestock is the feed cost. An individual farmer can lower his feed cost by buying the lowest cost feed. He can also look for those feeds that cause the biggest gain in livestock production from the smallest amount of feed. For example, good dairy cattle feed will produce the highest ratio of pounds of milk to pounds of feed consumed. Good chicken feed produces the

most pounds of eggs per pound of feed. With hogs, good feed produces the most hog weight gain per pound of feed.

The individual farmer also needed to focus on the best breeds of animals for efficiency in converting their feed to their final product. Different breeds have differing levels of efficiency in converting feed to the final product.

CHAPTER 6

Entry into the Chicken Business

In a December 24, 1943, interview with the Pantagraph, Sam Honegger recounted how and why they got into the chicken business.

STARTED IN 1934

The Honegger farms, operated by Sam and Frank Honegger and Ben A. Roth in partnership, has developed into one of the biggest poultry farms in this district, starting a movement followed by many others.

Sam Honegger recalls how the big Depression and cheap, cheap, feeds turned thoughts to better management and production of goods for which consumers would pay highest returns.

Dairy cattle helped bring the Honegger farms through that Depression, for milk returned far more than corn. But studies showed that poultry would, or could, excel the dairy cow, with good management.

There was just the ordinary flock of mixed chickens on the farm back in 1934 when the first bunch of White Leghorns with good egg records to their credit was purchased. Since then there has been a gradual increase and a continued effort to improve the breeding and management.

In an August 1957 Blade interview, Sam Honegger added some additional information about how they got into the chicken business.

Sam recounted that he and Frank at first had little regard for chickens and kept only 101 hens when they were participating in the Pioneer Farm Bureau Farm Management Service. They were then influenced by Jerry Andrews. He was a field man for the Management Service, which functioned in cooperation with the University of Illinois. Jerry convinced them there was profit in poultry and showed them records revealing that average-size farm flocks produced more returns for investment than equal amounts of feed and labor in other farming operations.

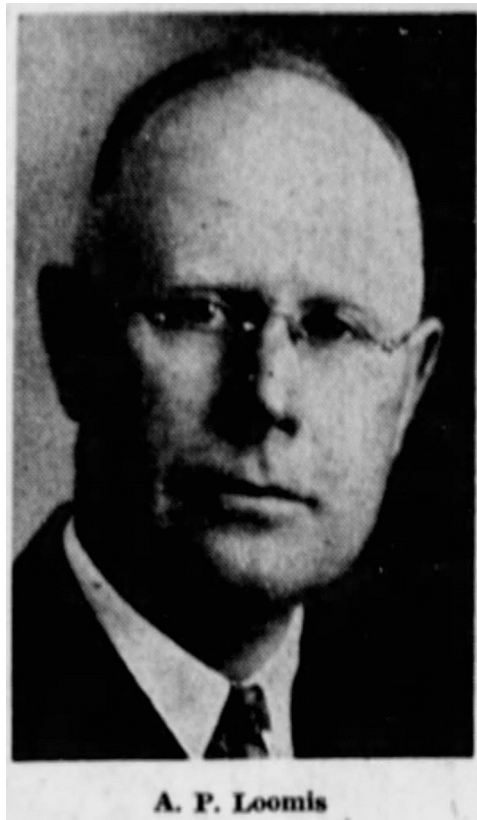
Sam Honegger also recounted that he liked to argue that the egg came before the chicken because it was an egg auction that brought them into contact with A. P. Loomis. He was a poultry breeder interested in egg auctions. The Honegger brothers hired him and made him a Vice-President in charge of the Honegger breeding program at Forrest.

Chapter 7

Hiring of Poultry Expert

The February 3, 1942, Pantagraph, published the following story about Honeggers & Co. hiring a nationally known expert on poultry farming.

POULTRY EXPERT JOINS HONEGGERS



FORREST.—The Honegger poultry farm here announces the addition to its staff of expert poultrymen A. P. Loomis, formerly superintendent of the Kansas state college poultry farm and also formerly of the Poultry Tribune experimental farm.

Mr. Loomis is to become active here in the Honegger program to produce one million eggs in 1942 as its contribution to the food for victory program. To date, its hens have been producing on a schedule that will permit achievement of that million egg goal.

Mr. Loomis is to have full charge of the breeding and experimental feeding projects here on the Honegger farms.

The February 6, 1942, Blade, published a similar story.

LOOMIS JOINS HONEGGER ORGANIZATION

A. P. Loomis became affiliated with the Honegger breeding establishment near Forrest, on February 1.

Honegger Brothers and associates have the largest breeding and production establishment in the state; also a large feed business. Cittadella farm, which Mr. Loomis had been operating for nearly four years, was sold last spring, and as his only son Lee will be in the army, he felt unable to undertake relocating the flock and carrying on with the present labor conditions. The flock was sold at auction, November 12, and Honeggers' bought the best stock. Having used some Cittadella chicks they soon recognized so many desirable qualities in the stock that they invited Mr. Loomis to join their efficient staff, and he will have full charge of breeding and experimental feeding.

Mr. Loomis was superintendent of the Kansas State College Poultry farm for five years; also the Poultry Tribune Experimental farm for eight years, and has a national acquaintance.

Honeggers' have a splendid modern plant and an excellent location and their goal for 1942 is 1,000,000 eggs from their flocks. To date, their hens are producing on this production schedule to aid in the government's Food for Defense program.

Prof. Alp, of the University of Illinois, states that this is the one really commercial egg producing area in Illinois. In Forrest there are over 50,000 hens in the community, producing eggs on a commercial basis.

Chapter 8

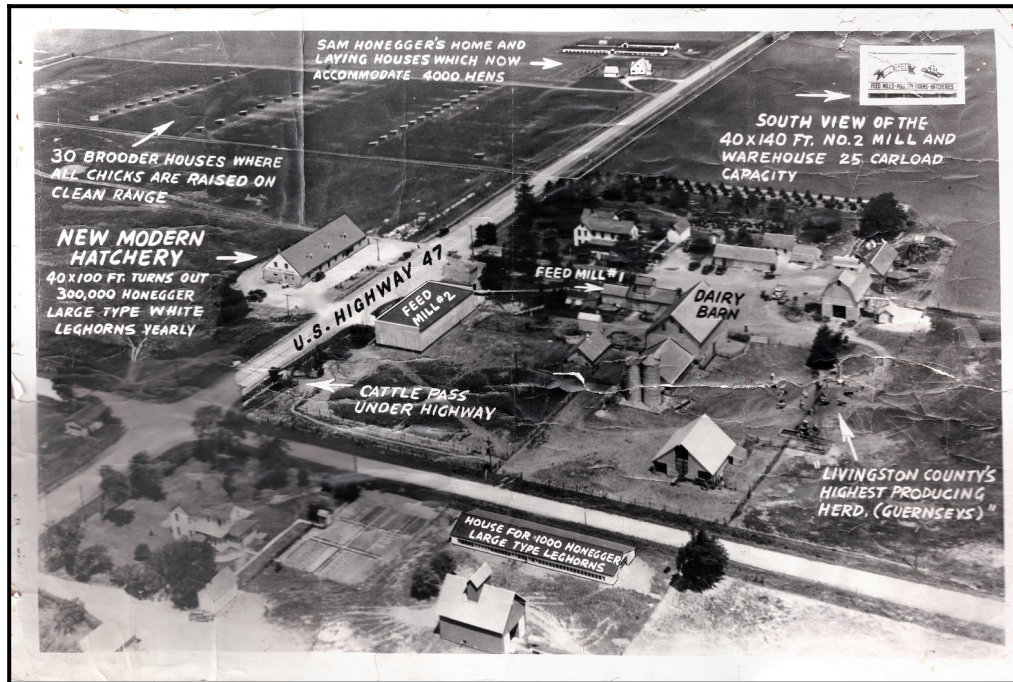
1942 Honeggers' Food for Victory Tours

January, 1942

The year of 1942 was a busy one for Honeggers & Co. They started the year with a large advertisement in the January 1, 1942, Pantagraph.

<p>We Are Supplying CHICKS AND FEEDS For The Largest White Leghorn Area in Illinois</p>	<p> FEED MILLS-POULTRY FARMS-HATCHERIES, FORREST, ILLINOIS.</p>	<p>Our Goal 1,000,000 EGGS IN 1942 In co-operation with the defense program we are planning to produce an average of 2,739 eggs per day, a million for the year; in 1942, from our own farms. Christmas Day production reached a new high of 3,018 eggs.</p>
<p>ORDER YOUR CHICKS NOW FOR SPRING DELIVERY</p>		
<p>HONEGGER'S past experience and record of successful performance has created such confidence in its products that bookings for chicks for the coming season have now reached an all time high. Chicks from the Honegger Hatcheries are a guarantee of sturdy, maximum producing white leghorns.</p> <p>HONEGGER feeds for all poultry and livestock are unsurpassed in quality of ingredients and capacity to maintain a high level of health and production. It is only natural to expect good feeds and chicks because we are selling 75% of our production to our neighbors within a 20 mile radius.</p> <p>Why not make yourself a member of that ever growing group of satisfied farm customers who have investigated and found that HONEGGER'S is truly an organization BY FARMERS, FOR FARMERS?</p> <p>Write today and ask about the Honegger Plan of successful poultry raising.</p>		
<p>HONEGGER'S FEED MILLS...POULTRY FARMS...HATCHERIES FORREST, ILL.</p>		

The aerial map of the Honeggers' facilities in Forrest was used for several different newspaper articles. It is interesting to note there was a tunnel under Route 47 at that time.

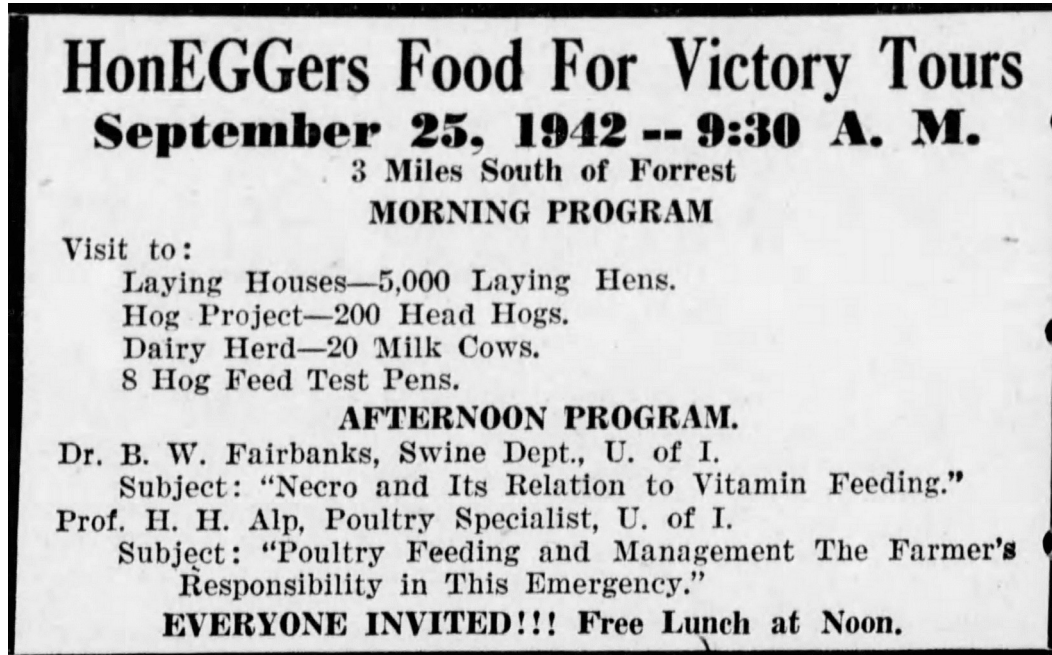


The original aerial map was 30×20 inches. A high resolution full size copy of this map can be viewed or downloaded from Archive.Gov at the Internet address of <https://tinyurl.com/vclbn7d>. Using this file, full scale printings of this map can be made.

A paper copy of this map is part of the collections at the Fairbury Echoes Museum.

Food for Victory Tour

On September 22, 1942, Honeggers placed an advertisement in the Pantagraph for their upcoming Food for Victory farm tour.



HonEGGers Food For Victory Tours
September 25, 1942 -- 9:30 A. M.
3 Miles South of Forrest
MORNING PROGRAM

Visit to:
Laying Houses—5,000 Laying Hens.
Hog Project—200 Head Hogs.
Dairy Herd—20 Milk Cows.
8 Hog Feed Test Pens.

AFTERNOON PROGRAM.
Dr. B. W. Fairbanks, Swine Dept., U. of I.
Subject: "Necro and Its Relation to Vitamin Feeding."
Prof. H. H. Alp, Poultry Specialist, U. of I.
Subject: "Poultry Feeding and Management The Farmer's
Responsibility in This Emergency."
EVERYONE INVITED!!! Free Lunch at Noon.

The October 2, 1942, Blade, published a story about the Honeggers' Food for Victory tour.

Honeggers' Food for Victory Tours

More than 250 farmers braved a very chilly, snow swept September 25 to attend the Honegger's Food for Victory program. Despite the inclement weather they spent the afternoon touring the laying houses where the pullets are producing around 2,500 eggs daily, the hog pens where experimental feed tests are being conducted, the dairy containing registered Guernsey cows and heifers numbering 26, and the poultry range where the remaining pullets are waiting to be moved to the laying houses.

In an effort to produce Food for Victory the Honeggers will market over 300 head of hogs, which is approximately double the number for any previous year. They intend to increase egg production by 15%; and the herdsman, Ted Traxler, has pledged a 10% increase in milk production in that he has the same number of cows and eight promising heifers coming into production. The herd averaged 492 pounds of butterfat in the herd year just completed.

There was no defeatism evidenced by the farmers attending this Victory Food Drive as they enthusiastically toured the varied sections of the farm to see what Honeggers are doing in the war effort, and as they assembled after a box lunch to listen to remarks on Honegger's plans by Sam R. Honegger, general manager, and A. P. Loomis, breeding expert on Honegger's farm.

Mr. Honegger remarked that the farmers in the Forrest area are not scared by the labor shortage. In spite of this shortage, many of them are planning an increase in their poultry production for 1943.

As evidence Mr. Honegger offered the pledge of W. Y. Brady, of an increase of 33% from 500 birds to 750. Chester Stein will increase his number of birds from 300 to 475, as well as his usual 150 head of hogs and the continuation of the farming of 160 acres of land. Al Somers of Fairbury is keeping 165 old hens in addition to his regular 300 pullets.

Mr. Honegger further stated that a few of our men now on the poultry farm will, without doubt, be in the armed forces very shortly and that the poultry business is not like the grain business that you can turn over to inexperienced hands. Producing a finished product, such as eggs, milk, and pork is a specialized operation needing at least the supervision of competent livestock men.

He said, "I don't know how we are going to do it, but we are going to increase our production in the egg field at least 15%. We now have on the farm 1,600 more birds than we had a year ago, giving us a total of 5,600 hens. In addition we are holding some 600 old hens until our pullets can come into full production. We set our goal over a year ago at 'A Million Eggs for Defense'; now we are planning on 'A Million Eggs for Victory'."

Mr. Florea of the Poultry Tribune explained that the government is asking for 200,000,000 chickens for the meat shortage that is developing. The hatchery industry could quickly supply millions of chicks for millions of pounds of meat during this winter when the farmer isn't busy with his crops. War of necessity brings out new ways to do things—new ways to raise chicks and abandon old routine habit.

Following the general remarks, Professor H. H. Alp, poultry specialist from the University of Illinois, discussed various poultry problems.

Professor Alp began by saying. "We get no credit for what we do in the eyes of the public. If there ever was a group deserving of the army-navy E flag, it is the farm group."

"Egg production has increased approximately 15% despite a request of 10%. It wasn't altogether due to our own participation, but weather had a lot to do with it. Most of our increased production is going across to the fighting fronts of the world. Of course, the eggs are being shipped entirely in powdered form. This is entirely necessary because of shipping weight and space; also the spoilage problem has been removed.

He continued with a few remarks regarding floor space per hen and said, "We will get nowhere with egg production as long as the house is crowded. We recommend four square feet of house per bird. Perhaps this

may be a little liberal, but we recommend it because we want to be sure you do not give too little space. People usually are inclined to use a little space less than recommended.

"We further recommend culling the flock almost daily. Don't wait until spring or fall. Keep your flocks constantly populated with the very best birds.

"Use extra buildings for increased numbers of birds. Adapt as many buildings as you can to your poultry. Increased production means increased room."

"A big problem with many poultry raisers is dampness. The problem can be remedied somewhat if in cleaning litter you will pick as warm a day as possible to do the work. If you pick a day with a very low temperature, you are exposing a warm floor to cold air, and condensation is the result."

"For best production, feed and water well. We have been inclined to overlook water in the hen's diet. Please keep in mind that for every pound of feed you use, you should supply the hen with two pounds of water. Keep the feed and water in a handy place—keep the water close to the feed hopper, not over someplace where she has to eat awhile, walk over for a drink, then back to eat again."

"If your hens are ailing, don't use Epsom Salts unless you are experienced at it. A milk flush is definitely superior. Likewise, don't doctor the water unless it is absolutely necessary."

"If you have the facilities, the labor and the means, you should, by all means, raise a fall brood of chickens. Fall, like early spring, is a good time to raise them, if you can find the means. Brooding in February is easier than brooding in April because the temperature is more uniform."

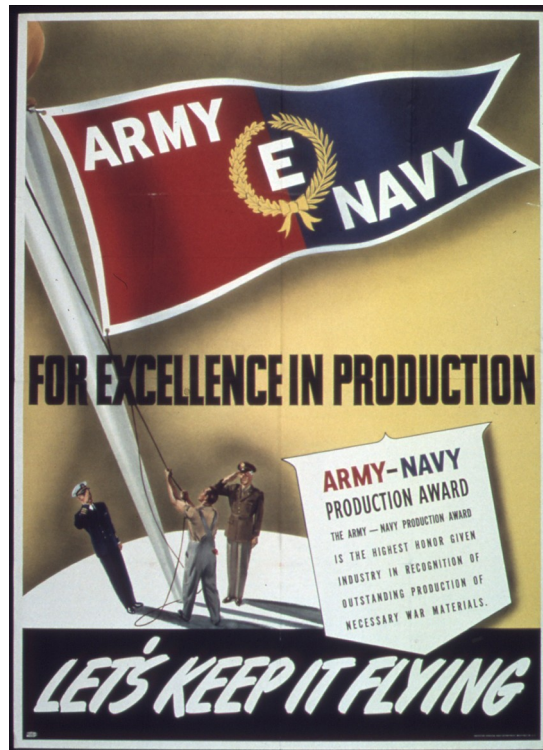
Finally he remarked, "Through breeding a great contribution can be made to this war effort. In buying chicks keep at least three things in mind: (1) Livability—get your birds from stock that has proven itself; (2) egg production; (3) for meat production. In buying Leghorns get the heavy rather than the light Leghorns.

"We can't win this war on the Home front, but we can lose it."

Army-Navy "E" Award

The previous Blade article mentions the Army-Navy "E" award. This award was an honor presented to companies during World War II whose production facilities achieved "Excellence in Production" ("E") of war equipment. The award was also known as the Army-Navy Production Award.

The award was created to encourage industrial mobilization and production of war time materials. By war's end, the award had been earned by only 5% of the more than 85,000 companies involved in producing materials for the U.S. military's war effort.



Hog Farming Experimental Results

Also in 1942, the Pantagraph published a story about Honeggers' latest studies about the profitability of hog farming.

Good Margin of Profit in Feeding Hogs

Honeggers Find Cost of Grain \$6 per Cwt.

FORREST.— Honegger Bros., local producers of war essentials such as eggs, milk, and pork, have just finished feeding tests that reveal good profits are to be earned by feeding hogs to heavier weights than usual.

Cost records were kept on a bunch of hogs fed in a dry lot to put 75 pounds weight on after they had already reached what is considered as an average market weight, 200 pounds.

That last 75 pounds cost just \$6 per cwt., compared to market prices well over double that figure. That last 75 pounds was put on the hogs in just 40 days.

The total feed required to produce 100 pounds of pork in these trials was 407.2 pounds.

Sam R. Honegger commented that "Even if that top hog price is set at around \$12 to \$13, it still leaves a good margin over feed cost."

"I believe it is possible to boost the spring pig crop 10 percent over last year's production and achieve the goal set by Secretary Wickard," he added. "We plan to breed 50 sows for spring, a new record for us. There will be 12 litters scheduled for February, 12 more in March, and the others for April."

"There is a lot of complaint about labor, but even if labor shortage gets so we can't handle the job we can always dispose of hogs."

Raising Chickens in Cardboard Boxes to Meet World War II Production Goals

In 1942, Honeggers & Co. were in the business of raising chickens, selling baby chickens, raising hogs, operating a dairy business, and selling livestock feed.

During World War II, the government set production goals and encouraged farmers to produce record amounts of farm products. Honeggers set a goal to produce one million eggs in 1942. Honeggers also published a series of newspaper articles which gave suggestions on how area farmers could increase their own production. Local farmers who wanted to help the war effort would need to buy chickens or feed from Honeggers.

In one of these newspaper articles in the Pantagraph in 1942, Honeggers recommended making chicken houses from scrap cardboard. These chicken houses would not last too long, but they were a quick way to produce more chickens and eggs.

Poultry Equipment Kept Busy All Winter on Honegger Farm

Dec. 7 Pullets Soon to Lay; Friers Sold

BY THE FARM EDITOR. FORREST.—Good results for the winter hatched chicks used in this commercial poultry district to supply the wartime demand for eggs and meat are in evidence now.

Honegger brothers had one hatch turned out of their big incubators on Dec. 7, the very day that Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. The cockerels in that hatch have already gone to market as friers, at 2-1/2 to 3 pounds each.

Pullets in that Dec. 7 hatch now show fine growth, and in two or three weeks will be ready to enter the big laying house where Honeggers have set a war production goal of one million eggs for 1942.

The trend here is to make full use of all available poultry equipment. The big laying house is to be kept filled with topnotch producers. Whenever a layer plays out, she is to be replaced. The laying flock will be culled throughout the season as young pullets are developed.

That means that the incubators are kept busy over a longer season. And the electric heated brooder houses first filled last December will be used for three or four batches of chicks instead of just one batch.

Cheap Range Shelters.

A new and inexpensive type of poultry equipment has appeared here to help make full use of the brooder houses — range shelters with heatless hovers. Cockerels from the mid February hatch are now housed in these new range shelters, 150 to 200 in each of the 10 by 14 foot houses.

The heatless hovers are made of old cardboard from shipping boxes. tacked to a wood frame, covered with old feed bags. No electricity is needed even in chilly weather when birds of five or six weeks are housed in this equipment.

They get along nicely on their own on "retained heat." This plan can be used very nicely by any farmer even though raising only one or two broods of chicks, said A. P. Loomis of the Honegger staff.

He added that it pays to feed out the cockerels to 2-1/2 to 3 pounds at present prices. Sam Honegger reports that egg production at present market is more attractive than a year ago. One of his associated grower records revealed 180 dozen eggs a year ago sold at 25 cents, or \$45, while a recent sale of 180 dozen eggs at 35 cents brought a return of \$63.

Egg prices have advanced 40 percent over the level a year ago. yet baby chicks have advanced from 10 to 12 cents, a boost of 20 percent. Feed prices have advanced some, but not as much as eggs, he said.

60,000 Leghorn Hens

More than 60,000 Leghorn hens are now producing eggs on farms within a few miles of Forrest, said Mr. Loomis. It represents the birth of a poultry area, where farmers have turned to commercial poultry production rather than extensive hog breeding or dairying.

The Forrest poultry district is most unusual in that it is located in the heart of a good corn belt district, with black, fertile soil capable of producing 100 bushel crops of corn, he observed.

Most commercial poultry districts are located in poor soil areas, on sand or clay, not suitable for grain crops. The result is they must ship in their feed supplies, or else the feed they grow is inferior. It is a well known fact that grain grown on fertile soil has a higher nutritive value than grain grown on poor soil, and this is also true with green forage crops used for gullet range.



HATCHED DEC. 7.—These pullets on the Honegger farms were hatched the very day that Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. The first of them will start laying in two to three weeks and will replace hens culled from the big laying houses where the war goal is one million eggs for 1942.



HEAVY FRIERS.—February hatched cockerels on the Honegger farms at Forrest are now broiler weight, 1-1/2 pounds, and will be grown out to heavy friers at 2-1/2 to 4 pounds. A heatless hover is provided in their quarters, later to be used as range house for pullets.



LOUIE WINGER'S CHICKS.—Four of these big brooder houses are sheltering 2,000 baby chicks for Louie Winger, south of Forrest, one of the many men specializing in egg production in that district.

Company Co-Founder Escapes Injury in Car Accident

The February 11, 1942, Pantagraph published an article about a car wreck in Strawn, Illinois.

Car Goes in Ditch

STRAWN. — (PNS) Herman Rieger and Frank Honegger, both of near Strawn, met with an automobile accident Friday on Route 47 near Gibson City. Frank Honegger was driving the car which skidded, causing the driver to lose control of the car. Herman Rieger suffered broken ribs and a lung injury. Frank Honegger escaped injury.

Entire Community Involved in World War II Effort

The entire community was involved in supporting the World War II effort. Honeggers' efforts to meet or exceed war time farming production goals was very well supported by the citizens in the Fairbury and Forrest areas.



Chapter 9

The Move to Fairbury

By 1942, the Forrest farm grain mill was bursting at the seams. Honeggers & Co. decided to move the mill operation to Fairbury. They selected an existing building on First Street, just south of the TP&W railroad tracks. Today, this site is occupied by the Addis Auto Parts business.

The January 22, 1943, Blade published an article announcing Honegger's plans to set up a mill in Fairbury.

Plan to Use Less Manpower In Honegger Feed Mill

Use Gravity and More Electricity in the Handling of Products

Some fifty years ago there was built, at the corner of Walnut and First Streets by the late F. L. Churchill a large building for the storing of oats. Mr. Churchill then owned what is now the S. C. Van Horne elevator. An overhead conveyor which crossed the TP&W tracks connected the large storage bin with the elevator which carried oats to the bin for storage and back again when they were ready to be shipped. Years ago the overhead conveyor was torn down and the building abandoned as a storage bin for oats.

Since then the bin has been used for various purposes, including a garage, until a few years ago when Ben Roth used it for storage of corn. Recently it has been remodeled and extensively repaired by Honegger Bros., who own it and by them has been made into a feed manufacturing plant, it being well suited for the purpose.

The moving of the Honegger feed milling operations to Fairbury is due to the large increase in business, and also due to the fact that because of the manpower shortage they found it necessary to operate their plant with less hand work. In their local plant, which has been made modern, this has been accomplished with the use of electricity and gravity.

In the mixing of feed it first goes to the top of the cupola to be mixed, then by gravity into a bin to be fed into an automatic 100-pound weighing machine. When the bag is properly weighed it is sent to the sewing machine on the balcony of the second floor, and then is dropped automatically down a chute to a table on the second floor.

From the table the bags are slid onto the warehouse truck and stacked five high in the stock room by the use of machinery. When the feed is sold and has to be moved the same machinery that stacked it up is used in taking it down and putting it onto the small truck. It is then wheeled over to the loading chute and slides down into the truck for shipment.

The volume of the Honegger mills has increased to such an extent that in 1942, based on October minimum carloads, the amount of mixed feeds manufactured in the Honegger Forrest plant would have made a trainload two and a half miles long.

Honeggers will do no custom grinding at their Fairbury plant. All of their custom grinding will be done at the mills at the farm.

Churchill Elevator Complex

Frank Churchill was a very prominent Fairbury businessman. He erected a huge grain elevator complex at the intersection of Locust and First Street. He also operated a gravel quarry on North First Street, just south of the Vermilion River.



Francis L. Churchill
(1860-1920)

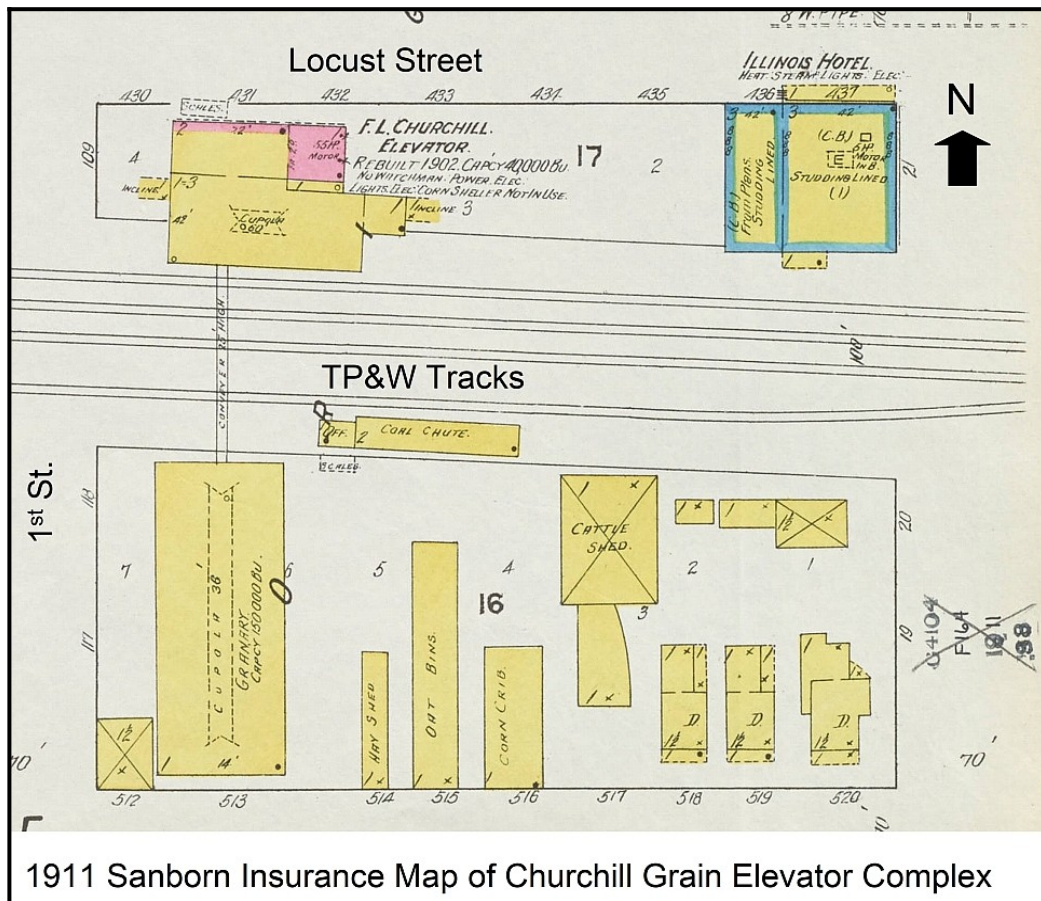


Lillie E. McDowell
Churchill (1866-1938)

Sanborn Maps of Churchill Elevator Complex

The Sanborn Insurance Company made very detailed maps of Fairbury. They made a series of five different maps between the years of 1885 and 1911. The 1911 Sanborn map shows the Churchill elevator complex and the Illinois Hotel.

Honeggers & Co. bought the building shown on the bottom left hand side of the map. The conveyor across the TP&W railroad tracks the 1943 Blade article mentioned above is also shown. The building is labeled as the 150,000 bushel granary.



Below is a photo of the Churchill elevator complex with the conveyor spanning the TP&W railroad tracks.



Below is another photo showing the Churchill oats storage building that Honeggers' purchased.



Honegger Mill – 1st Street, north of Walnut – 1941

Mill Crew

This photograph was undated. It is believed to be circa 1950.

The location of this photo is also unknown. Some relatives of these men believe it was taken in the new mill west of Fairbury.



Chapter 10

Controversy in 1945

Labor shortages were a major issue during World War II. Approximately 25% of the men in the Fairbury area served in the military. Other local men traveled to the relatively high paying war factory jobs in Illinois.

These labor shortages made it difficult for farmers and local businesses to hire enough help to keep their enterprises operating. Honeggers & Co. faced labor shortages at their Fairbury feed mill.

In April of 1945, Honeggers became aware that German POW's, (Prisoners of War), were available to help unload the train cars at the mill. Honeggers elected to utilize these men at their Fairbury feed mill.

World War II had been raging for four years. The war did not end in Europe until May 8, 1945. Many Fairbury families had emotional feelings about the war and the loss of their friends and relatives in the war. Fairbury boys Wade Harris and Dwight Seale were being held as POW's in Germany. When Honeggers elected to utilize the German POW's, this prompted newspaper coverage in both the Blade and Pantagraph.

The April 26, 1945, Pantagraph published a story about using the German POW's at Honeggers in Fairbury.

War Prisoners Unload Cars At Feed Mill in Fairbury

Wages Are Paid To Government, Says Roth

Fairbury. —Ten prisoners of war from the camp established at Hoopeston were set to work here Tuesday in the Honegger feed mill, unloading an accumulation of several carloads of feed ingredients, to relieve the car shortage and to help produce the eggs and poultry meat needed in our war effort.

Town comments did not welcome the German prisoners but the prediction was made by Ben Roth, mill manager, that resentment against Germans themselves would not bring objection to prisoner labor because it helps our war effort.

They are doing an essential job for which there was no available local labor. Mr. Roth reported. "We have tried without success to hire help to keep these cars from being held up unduly. We have employed men as old as 76 years of age and they are working every day. We were confronted with a choice of either using prisoners of war or not getting the feed ingredients through the plant. The whole problem is "Do we want to eat meat?"

Treasury Gets Profit

Mr. Roth gave assurance that no prisoner labor would be used when local labor becomes available. He did revise his estimates and ask for only six prisoners daily. That detail of prisoners is hauled from Hoopeston daily to Gibson City, where a larger force of PW's is used to unload cars. The Fairbury group is then trucked, with guard, from Gibson City each morning.

The government gets 60 cents per hour for this prisoner labor, Mr. Roth added. Through international agreement the prisoners are to get 80 cents per day. The balance is profit for the U. S. Treasury.

"I can clearly understand how people feel about having German war prisoners in our town and community," he added, "but it is just a matter of whether we want them to live at our expense (without working) or to perform some worthwhile work and make money for our government."

May Cancel Project

"Col. Evers of Camp Ellis informs us that these prisoners are not allowed to work in communities where there is a public reaction against them of a serious nature." Mr. Roth reported. "Also he said these men will be available for a short time only, that they will be used to harvest food crops when the canning season opens."

Grain men throughout the nation complain of car shortage and the railroads are insisting that every carload of grain or feed be unloaded promptly, he said.

There is a great demand for the for the feeds. The Honegger mill specializes in poultry feeds. Backyard poultry flocks have been increased greatly over a year ago, as a meat shortage developed.

Are Good Workers

Those 10 PWs were good workers—young men. They put four and five heavy bags of feed on a hand truck for each trip from the car to the mill. They moved at a fairly good rate of speed, talked very little, piling up those bags of fish meal, meat scrap, tankage, alfalfa meal, soybean meal and linseed meal in the mill warehouse.

One armed guard accompanied the group. His only order to the prisoners was "mach schnell" which means "be quick."

Prisoners Afraid

The guard would not permit a news photograph of the prisoners at work, unless the camp commander, Col. Evers, was contacted at Camp Ellis, and he informed the Pantagrapher that photographs are permitted only when the prisoners themselves agree, and then the picture must be submitted for approval to the camp's public relation officer before it could be published.

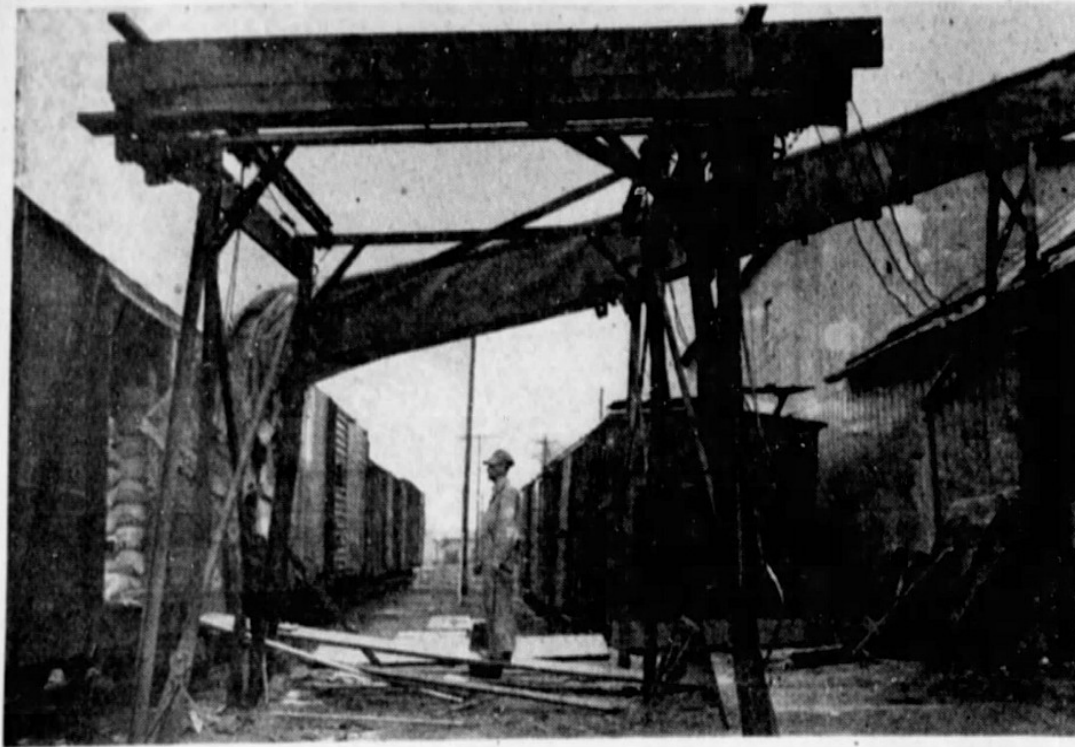
The prisoners would not agree to have a news photograph taken. They were afraid the picture might get into Germany and that they would suffer, after the war, because they helped America with their labor during the war.

FOURTEEN THE PANTAGRAPH, THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 1943.

Farm *and* Rural Interests

Frank W. Bill, Editor

Phone 6900-5



CARS HELD UP.—Without war prisoner labor to unload cars, the car shortage would be more serious, according to Fairbury reports. Seven car loads of grain and feed had accumulated there at the Honegger feed mill and corn drying plant, shown here, when prisoners were put to work Tuesday. Other groups of prisoners at Gibson City promised to release 70 box cars there.

In 2020, a new batch of Pantagraph photo negatives were uploaded by the McLean County Museum of History. Two of these photos were taken by a Pantagraph photographer in Fairbury as part of the story on the German POW's. The photos were taken on April 24, 1945. One of the two photos were used in the actual Pantagraph article and is shown above. The other photo was not used in the printed story and is shown below.





The next day, the Blade also ran a story about the German POW's.

German Prisoners Used In Local Plant

Ten German prisoners of war, quartered at Hoopston, were brought to Fairbury the first of the week to work at the Honegger Feed Mill. They were brought as far as Gibson City, where a number are also employed, and were brought here from Gibson City in a truck under armed guard.

The bringing of the Germans here to work did not meet with the approval of our citizens and adverse comments were heard.

Ben Roth, mill manager, said the men were brought here to do essential work when no local help was available. He pointed out that railroad cars, cars that are vital in the transportation of things essential to the bringing of victory, stand on side tracks full to the top for the reason men can not be had to unload them. He said he had tried in every conceivable manner to get workers, but the workers were not to be had.

The plan of having German prisoners of war help, when no other help is available, is one that is sponsored by our federal government.

The Honegger Mills here do not pay the Germans who work for them; these prisoners are paid by the government 80 cents a day, and the Honegger Mills pay the government 60 cents per hour for each hour worked by each prisoner, which makes a fairly good profit for the government.

The ten prisoners brought to Fairbury are all young men and good workers, unloading cars, and stacking up the sacks of various kinds of meal without apparent effort. They could only be employed here for a short time, even if there was work for them to do, for the reason that the government gives preference for their labor to canning companies.

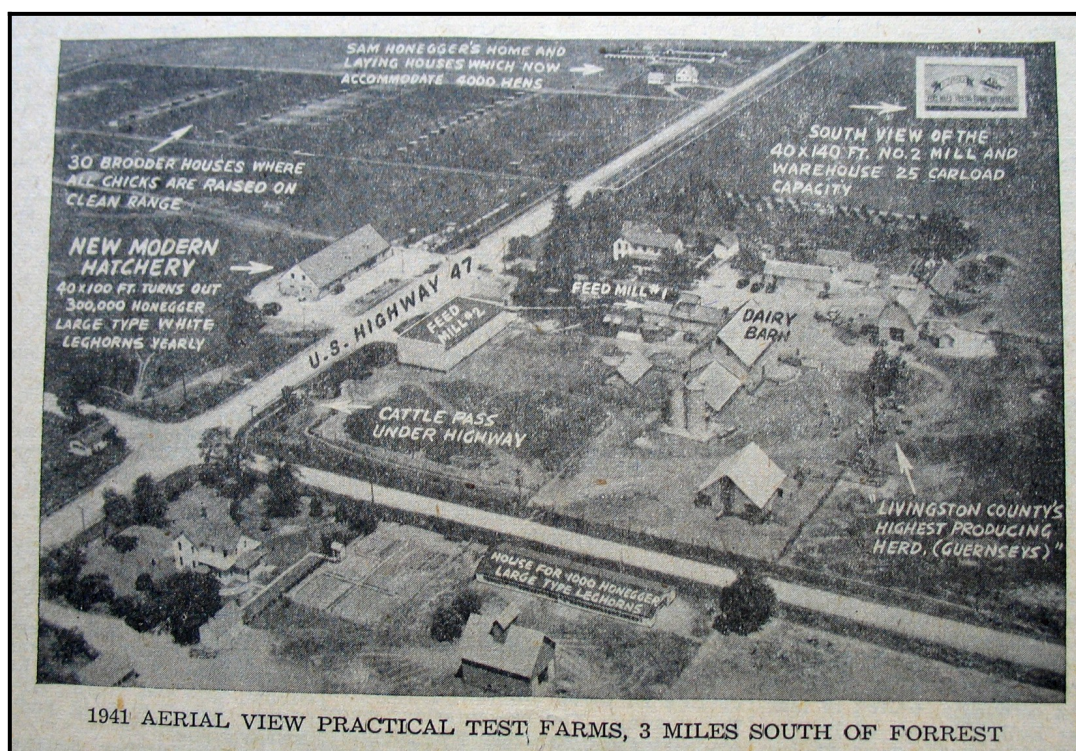
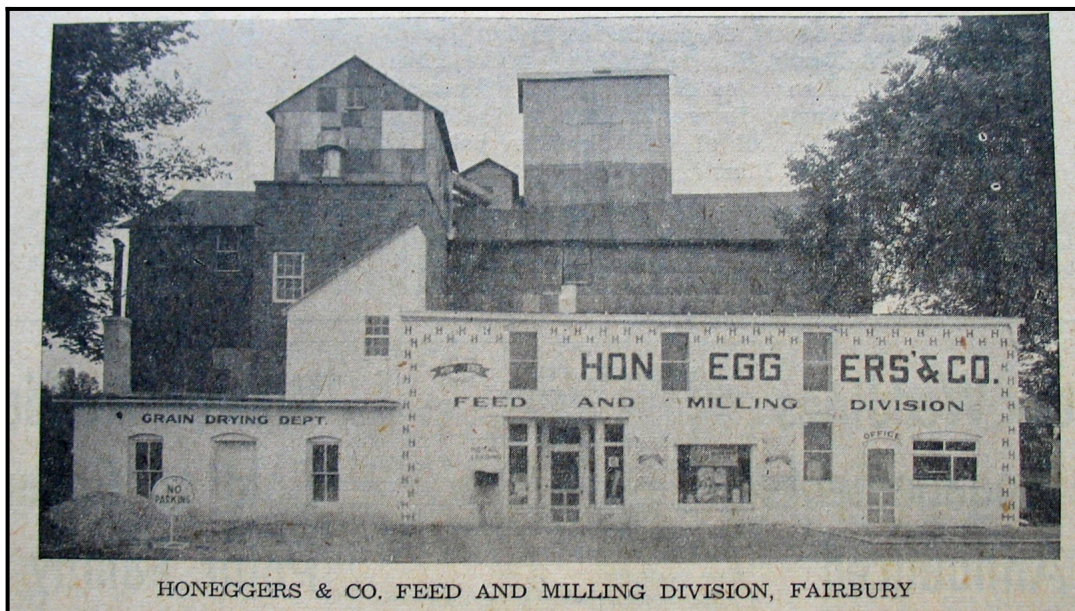
20 Years in Business

On July 6, 1945, the Blade ran a special story about the 20 year history of Honeggers & Co. The article included six photographs.

A Dream Enterprise Realized

Through the courtesy of the Cipsco News, the Blade presents to its readers views used by the News as the Illustrations in a history of Honeggers & Co. The pictures show the remarkable growth made by the company, which started in 1925, with no more equipment than a hammer-mill for grinding and a scoop shovel for mixing the feed they used for their own livestock and poultry. Neighbors liked the results the Honeggers were getting with their mixture and it wasn't long until orders were coming in. It was from this beginning that the Honeggers & Co. Feed Mill grew to its present capacity of from 150 to 200 tons of feed daily. Ben Roth, one of the three partners, is manager of the Feed and Milling division. Much feed is being shipped east into the Del-Mar-Va broiler producing area and in the Shenandoah valley.

Sam and Frank Honegger on their farm south of Forrest, have developed the largest White-Leghorn area in Illinois. A modern egg-processing plant has been established which includes grading, candling, and packing eggs. This is the first government grading station in central Illinois.





1941 AERIAL VIEW PRACTICAL TEST FARMS, 3 MILES SOUTH OF FORREST

On October 10, 1945, the Pantagraph published a photo about grading eggs at the hatchery in Forrest.

EIGHTEEN THE PANTAGRAPH, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1945

Farm and Rural Interests

Frank W. Bill, Editor Phone 6900-5

GRADED EGGS SEALED AND DATED



FORREST.—Earl Dutton, official USDA egg grader, is shown here with a carton of a dozen eggs, the carton seal stating the grade and the date. This assurance of quality eggs and fresh eggs brings highest prices, according to Sam Honegger, in charge of the new egg marketing station here. Miss Mary Steffen and Miss Kathryn Steffen are shown filling the cartons. All government graded eggs are supposed to be sold to consumers within five days of the grading date.

PANTAGRAPH PHOTO

In August of 2020, a new batch of Pantagraph photo negatives were uploaded by the McLean County Museum of History. One of these was the original negative of the photo used in the egg grading photo shown above.



Chapter 11

Purchase of the Illinois Hotel in Fairbury

The Illinois Hotel was built and opened in 1911. It was at the southwest corner of Locust and Second Street. The February 4, 1911, Blade, published this story about the new hotel being built in Fairbury.

DATE OF HOTEL OPENING SET

Illinois Hotel Will Open Doors on February 28

The date for the opening of the new Illinois Hotel has been set for Tuesday, Feb. 28, and the doors of Fairbury's new hostelry will then be opened to the public. It is the intention of the new proprietor, Mr. Ritenour, to serve a banquet, to which the public is invited. The banquet will be in the form of a benefit in which Mr. Blivens, the owner of the building will share with Mr. Ritenour. The price asked will be \$5 a plate and it is proposed to put up the finest banquet that has ever been set before the people of Fairbury.

The furniture of the new hotel arrived the latter part of last week and is being rapidly put together and placed. Each room is equipped with a sanitary brass bed, a dresser, writing desk, and chairs. Rugs are used in placed of carpets. The furniture is quarter sawed oak. The dining room furniture is of the same material.

Mr. Blivens has been at a great expense in building and equipping the new hotel and has financed it unaided by public contributions. When the Central opera house was opened, the patrons paid \$5 a seat at the benefit and as the new Illinois hotel is fully as laudable an enterprise, the public will not only be contributing to a good cause by attending the opening banquet, but will also receive their money's worth. Help the new hotel along.

The March 3, 1911, Blade, recounted the grand opening of the Illinois Hotel.

NEW ILLINOIS HOTEL BANQUET

A Large Crowd Present to Enjoy the Spread and Inspect the new Hostelry

Tuesday evening the Illinois Hotel, Fairbury's new hostelry, threw open its doors to the public, the opening being made the occasion for a banquet. It was an auspicious event and attended by over one hundred invited guests, and it is safe to say that none were present but enjoyed the occasion thoroughly.

The banquet was served in the beautiful dining room of the new structure, the tables being arranged in a U shape. The decorations were carnations. The banquet was begun at 8:30 pm. and when the guest were seated the interior presented a charming scene. The menu was as follows:

Raw Oysters.

Tomato Soup.

Roast Beef.

Mashed Potatoes.

Brown Gravy.

Green Peas.

Bread and Butter.

Salad.

Baked Chicken.

Sweet Potatoes.

Plum Pudding.

Ice Cream.

Cake.

Coffee.

The menu was prepared under the direction of Mrs. Ritenour, wife of the proprietor, who will be the chef of the new hotel, and was served by waiters from Streator and Ottawa, who were brought here for the occasion.

At the completion of the banquet, Host Ritenour called upon Judge C. F. H. Carrithers, who responded with an excellent speech, which he delivered in his best style. On behalf of Mr. Blivens, the owner of the building and Mr. Ritenour, the proprietor, he thanked those present for their presence at the dedicatory banquet and for the hearty goodwill and interest they had thus shown and also on behalf of the guest he thanked Mr. Blivens and Mr. and Mrs. Ritenour for the excellent entertainment given and for a very pleasurable evening. On leaving the dining hall the ladies were given a carnation as a favor and the gentlemen a cigar.

Burch's four piece string orchestra rendered excellent music during the banquet.

A description of the interior of the new hotel and its furnishings has previously been published in the Blade. The exterior of the building will be completed this spring with the addition of a new lounging porch across the north front which will add greatly to the appearance of the building as well as to the comfort and convenience of the guests. The interior of the building is complete in every detail and there is probably not a hotel in the state that can boast of more conveniences than the new Illinois. Mr. Ritenour, the proprietor, is a pleasant and accommodating gentleman and it is safe to say that he will do all he possibly can to make his guests comfortable. Mrs. Ritenour is a chef of wide experience and her understanding of the culinary art will undoubtedly assist greatly in building up a large patronage for the new hostelry.

Mr. Blivens is to be congratulated for the successful termination of his work in building and equipping the new hotel and the people of Fairbury, should, and we believe they will, help all they can to make it a success.

The following photograph shows the condition of the Illinois Hotel as it was originally built.



Shortly after the hotel was opened, the decision was made to add onto the west side of the hotel. This addition would add capacity for 20 more hotel rooms. This increased the

number of windows on the north side of the building from five to eight. The following photograph shows the Illinois Hotel after the addition with eight front windows.



Eventually, ownership of the Illinois Hotel changed from C. J. Blivens to Robert Mack. In 1937, hotel operator F. S. Boose closed the hotel and shipped the furnishings to Logansport, Indiana, to be sold. This left Fairbury without a hotel.

Owner Robert Mack engaged Mr. and Mrs. George Marshall to take over the operations and he renamed it Hotel Fairbury. No photographs of the Hotel Fairbury are known to exist.

Around the start of World War II, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Flanagan moved from Kansas to Fairbury to operate the hotel and restaurant. The Flanagan family had three daughters and one son sign up to serve in World War II. Daughter Julia Flanagan participated in a Bob Hope show at a California military hospital in 1944. The show was broadcast on nationwide radio and a copy of this show is available at <https://tinyurl.com/qra3ruj>.

Honeggers Purchases the Hotel

The April 12, 1946, Blade published an article announcing that Honeggers & Co. had bought the Hotel Fairbury from Robert Mack.

Honeggers & Co. New Owners of Hotel Fairbury

A business transaction was consummated yesterday whereby Honeggers & Co. purchased of Robert Mack the Hotel Fairbury.

Sam Honegger, in announcing the purchase, stated the hotel will be redecorated throughout and operated as a modern hotel. The use of the elevator, which was

discontinued several years ago, will again be put back into service. Honeggers will not operate the hotel themselves, but will lease it.

It is planned to make the upper part of the west wing of the building into apartments which will be available to Honegger employees. This will leave 30 rooms for the hotel's transient trade.

The first floor of the west wing will be occupied with a farm service store with Fred Feldman in charge.



Company Structure Changes

In the Evelsizer 1969 Thesis, it is reported that Honeggers' changed its company structure from a partnership to a private corporation in 1947.

Chapter 12

The Big Fire in 1949

In 1943, Honeggers & Co. bought the old Churchill grain storage building, where Addis Auto Parts is located today. Just six years later, in February of 1949, the Fairbury mill caught fire around 9 PM. on February 25, 1949.

When the fire occurred, the Blade newspaper was about half-way through their printing of 3,000 newspapers. The Blade staff stopped the press run and inserted a story about the Honeggers fire. So some Blade customers got a paper with no mention of the fire, and others got a version with a short story about the fire.

Many years ago, when the February 25, 1949, edition of the Blade was scanned to create a microfilm copy, the edition with no mention of the fire was scanned. Today's online version of the Blade available from the Dominy Memorial web site, is derived from this microfilm version. Therefore, the online version has no mention of the fire.

The Blade also kept a paper copy of each Blade and had them bound by year into large books. Most of these printed Blade big books are now stored at the Fairbury Echoes Museum. The 1949 printed book of the old Blades has the version with a story about the fire.

The February 25, 1949, version of the Blade with a story about the fire is shown below.

Fire Levels Honegger's Feed Mill Last Night

Burns to Ground Within 50 Minutes; Wind Fans Sparks Over Town; Origin Unknown

A raging fire reduced Honegger's feed mill to a smoldering ruin and threatened other buildings in Fairbury last night, lighting the town for blocks and showering sparks over many other buildings. It is said the gleam in the sky could be seen 30 to 40 miles away.

White-hot flames shot from the elevator type structure and made attempts of firemen to battle the flames futile within minutes after the fire was discovered shortly before 9 pm.

Burning with an almost explosive force, the raging flames reduced the three-story structure to a mass of blazing framework within less than 30 minutes. Shortly after the firemen arrived, they diverted their efforts to saving the Honegger office building, which was soon steaming and eventually developed a minor fire in the cupola. This blaze was soon brought under control by firemen who crawled up from the inside to pour water on the blaze.

Late reports said the power line to the water plant was severed by the leaping flames, curtailing the city's water supply for a short time until power was resumed to the waterworks plant.

The blaze fanned by a strong wind from the west, showered sparks upon houses many blocks from the burning building, threatening them with increasing fury until the mill burned itself out within an hour.

The origin of the fire is still a mystery at this writing, and probably will remain so. Bill Frisby drove by the mill at 8:45 and did not see any signs of a fire. Ten minutes later the building was a raging inferno.

The flames burned electric wires along the railroad track and menaced several box cars standing nearby. A shed east of the mill was soon ablaze.

Among nearby towns sending fire fighting equipment were Forrest, Chatsworth, Chenoa, Pike's, Pontiac prison and others.

The flames were so intense that steam rose from the ground nearly 100 yards from the fire, and the metal clad office building steamed as firemen poured a protective shower of water over it.

No Plans Yet

Ben Roth said the building was insured, but he wasn't sure of the exact amount. "It is too early to talk of plans for the future," he said. The entire community realizes the loss to it, and hopes the company will rebuild here.

Fairbury's new water tower, built during the administration of Mayor Roy Taylor, was filled to capacity of 159,000 gallons when the fire started. It was "standing by" to protect the city in case the fire spread and the water plant remained helpless.

"Tank Has Paid For Itself."

A common expression heard among groups of people near the fire and along the street was "The new tank has paid for itself tonight." For it is a disquieting thought to consider the extent to which the fire might have gone had it not been for an adequate water supply, the fire starting as it did at the west end of main street and with a strong gale of wind from the west helping it along.

The fire trucks were pumping 500 gallons of water per minute, demonstrating that the water tank was paying for itself. Every fire hydrant within two blocks of the fire was in use.

People from Pontiac, Forrest, Saunemin, and other points said the blaze appeared to be only a mile or so away.

Numerous firemen and others exhibited heroism in fighting the fire and several whom The Blade considered deserving of mention asked that their names not be used.

Built 55 Years Ago

The Honegger feed mill was built 55 years ago to be used as an oats storage bin for the Churchill Elevator company. On September 1st, 1939, the building, which had been allowed to run down was taken over by the Honegger and fitted to the needs of their feed and milling division.

More recently, not more than six months ago, the building had begun receiving extensive repairs and was in process of rebuilding at the time of the fire.

The east section of the building had for the manufacture of a wide line of livestock and poultry feeds which were sold in all parts of the country. The east part of the building had been used to store the feed after manufacture.

In a few months additional machinery would have been installed in the remodeled plant.

The March 4, 1949, edition of the Blade published two stories related to the Honegger mill fire. The first story was about the fire itself.

Building Plans Still Unknown at Honeggers

Fairbury Business Men Want Corporation to Remain Here; Proposal Offered for New Site

Plans on the rebuilding of the Honegger Feed Mill are at this time so inconclusive that no statement regarding them can be made. Such was the feeling today by Sam Honegger, part owner of the company.

Cleaning up the debris, he continued, has taken so much of the time of everyone in the organization that little talk or speculation on the when, how, or where, of rebuilding has been undertaken in an organized manner.

Fifteen or twenty businessmen met at Bashford's cafe last Friday evening and decided to propose to Honeggers that the Fairbury businessmen buy a plot of land near the intersection of the Wabash and TP&W railroads, according to Noble Woodall. At that time it was believed the city would extend utilities to that place, he said. The group formed a committee, which met with some of the Honegger men.

Although the plan was neither accepted nor turned down by Honeggers, the company said they would be glad to consider the proposal at a later date.

Forrest businessmen were also reported to have met soon after the fire to talk over the possibility of situating the new mill in that vicinity. No definite proposals were known to have been made.

The second story in this edition of the Blade is shown below.

Fire Sidelights

Some interesting sidelights on the Honegger Feed Mill fire were revealed during the past week. Some are humorous, some are of a more serious nature, but all are of an interesting character.

The flames, which lit up Main street like day, maintained such a brilliance far out in the country that it was possible to read a newspaper by their glow. This was not merely a rash statement made by someone who thought it was light enough, but was actually proved by Chuck Williams, who lives four miles southwest of town. Chuck didn't leave anything to chance. He went into the house, got a newspaper, returned to the front yard and read it.

The chief of the Pontiac prison fire department, whose truck was one of those on duty here, is quoted as saying that no place where he has been on duty at any nearby town or city, has he seen such uniform pressure of water entering the fire engine, 40 pounds, as was the case here.

Edgar Runyon was not idle that night. He was returning from Long Point, saw a great flare in the sky in the direction of Fairbury, and thought it might even be Fairbury, stepped up his car, worked all night at the fire, until time to go on duty as a school bus driver.

Pumps Do Work

"Had a busy night, didn't you, Ben?" asked a number of people of Ben Nussbaum, city waterworks engineer. "Not especially," he replied. "The pumps did all the work. All I had to do was sit around and watch 'em while they worked." But he did some sweating during the period the power was off.

George Bauman, manager of the Swygert elevator, had been to Pontiac with his wife attending a picture show. On their return they saw a big light in the sky "several miles" to the south. They started out to investigate, "and here's where we wound up."

Surprisingly enough, Barney Gibler, C.I.P.S. service man, got a little sleep that night. We suppose he would have 15 people, including The Blade, hounding his every footstep, but after he got his three-phase line going again, there seemed to be nothing serious amiss in his field, so he went home about midnight and got some sleep.

Seven hundred dollars damage was done to the pair of box cars standing on the siding at the time of the fire. They were returned to the TP&W yards for repair.

The elevator and office building across the tracks from the mill was actually on fire in at least two different places inside the structure. Unable to reach the flames from the outside because of the tin siding, the building was saved by the efforts of four men who climbed up the inside of the cupola with a fire hose. The elevator now shows blisters on its south side from the intense heat.

Flames Break Out Quickly

How long the fire smoldered inside is not known, but after it worked to the outside, it went like wildfire. Mr. and Mrs. Walter Henning went by the mill and

noticed nothing, and when they reached their home some three blocks away the fire engines had already answered the call.

A piece of corrugated tin siding, about 6×10 inches, was blown onto the roof of the Joe Carrithers home.

It was said a Chicago station went on the air with a report that the entire main block of Fairbury was on fire. This seemed to be the case to onlookers who could see the glow at Pontiac. The water tower was lit up by the fire, which made it appear the whole town was on fire.

Many Fairburians and former Fairburians got the fire on the radio while it was in progress.

The Fairbury hospital was standing by with blood plasma ready for any emergency that might arise.

The first thought of many people both inside and outside of town when they saw the glow from their windows was that either their house or their neighbor/s was afire. Hi Steidinger, who lost his house some 13 months ago, had the same experience when he noticed his yard assume a reddish hue.

Eli Moser noticed sparks dropping on his garage roof, grabbed his garden hose and raced forward to do battle with any fire that might break out. When he arrived, he was forced to go back for the key to the building. Later Eli said the shower of sparks looked like a red snowstorm.

One lady, not identified, who was viewing the fire from in front of the Alexander Lumber company, became aware of the intensity of the flame when she noticed that her fur coat was signed. Her dismay was probably greater than the insurance companies who shared part of the loss.

George Mowry tells of a man who started from Cooksville to the fire. After he arrived at a farm in Colfax, where he thought the fire was when he started out, he drove on in search of the blaze, not wishing to waste a trip to that point.

The Blade received a letter this week from a Kansas automobile and implement dealer, who traveling through Fairbury at the time of the fire took movies. In the letter he asked for a copy of The Blade covering the fire, and offered to send the movies to Fairbury if they turn out well.

The Alexander Lumber company was on fire several times during the Honegger fire, according to the manager, Fred Wing. Although the wind was blowing away from the lumber yard, the intense radiation caused the asphalt shingles to form a gas, which ignited several times.

The heat from the fire was so intense that houses on Walnut street across from the mill had the paint blistered in numerous places.

Persons occupying the rooms facing west in the hotel said the rooms became unbearably hot.

Bach's lumber yard supplied ladders for anxious home owners who climbed onto their respective roofs for time to time checkups. Alexander Lumber Co. also gave ladders that were used in fighting the fire at the mill.

Barney Gibler deserves credit for a fine job in restoring power after the fire had severed important lines.

The March 9, 1949, Pantagraph published a story announcing that Fairbury was going to have a Honegger fire clean-up day.

Volunteer Crews To Clear Fairbury Mill Fire Site

FAIRBURY. —Monday has been designate "Honegger Cleanup Day" in Fairbury and townspeople as well as farmers in the vicinity will gather to "rehabilitate" the Honegger feed mill site.

A \$250,000 fire Feb. 24 destroyed the mill. Salvage crews have been sorting and hauling out feeds since the fire and are expected to complete their work this week. Clean-up crews will move in Monday to remove charred wood, tin, scrap bags, unsalvageable feeds and other rubble.

Stores are to be open Monday but will operate with skeleton staffs. Work will start at 8 a. m. and lunch will be served at noon. Clearing the site is expected to be completed in one day. Work has been scheduled for Tuesday in the event of rain.

On March 14, 1949, the Pantagraph sent a reporter and photographer to Fairbury to write a story about the fire. The photographer took seven photographs and two of them were used the next day with the article. All seven of the photographs are shown below. The Pantagraph recently released these high resolution negatives.















The March 15, 1949, Pantagraph published their story about the successful clean-up of the Honegger mill fire site. This article included two of the seven photographs taken the day before in Fairbury.

Businessmen, Farmers Help Remove Debris

FAIRBURY. — Two hundred Fairbury business men and farmers participated in a big cleanup campaign Monday, removing the debris and wreckage left by the quarter million dollar fire of the Honegger feed mill.

First salvage of the fire that occurred on Feb. 24 was removal of 14 carloads of damaged feeds by a salvage company.

Monday's cleanup removed 70 tons of steel, all except 80 fire damaged motors and a few of the metal parts to be sold for junk.

Business men organized the project but half or more of the men and equipment assembled Monday morning were from farms in the district.

Five Tractor Loaders

Five tractor loaders were provided by farmers to scoop and load the ashes and remaining burned grain. Business men and farmers provided 26 dump trucks for hauling the dirt to the dump and the metal to the junk yard.

Three welders, Ed Klitzing and Marvin Huetten of Fairbury and A. J. Walters of Strawn, cut the metal parts up so they could be removed from the mill site.

Wrecker trucks were provided by Ed Klitzing and Fairbury Auto. The tractor scoop loaders were sent by Jess Honegger, Lloyd Metz, Ben Zehr, Alfred Wessel, and Dan Meiss. A tractor trailer was provided by Joe L. Zehr.

26 Trucks Busy

Those who sent trucks were Alexander Lumber company, Honegger-Huetten Lumber company, J. N. Bach Lumber company, Farmers Implement, DeBold Householder, Corn Belt elevator, A. E. Craig, Norvall Knapp, Russell Mowery, Indian Grove township, Alfred Maurer, Ed Houling of Farmers Implement, Louis Shulman, Raymond Slagel, Leon Spence, George Lerch.

Others working with the trucks were Jake Ebach, Wes Woodward, Ed Metz, Dan Meiss, Herman Baylor, Frank Rathbun, Urban Steidinger, Swift Dawson, Henry Kilgus, and Henry Storck.

No Building Plans

Deep appreciation was expressed by Sam Honegger and other officials of the company.

No plans have been laid yet for rebuilding, Mr. Honegger said. To make up for the lost feed grinding capacity here, their smaller feed mill at Forrest has been kept in operation 24 hours a day. Also the Honegger company has taken over part of a feed mill operated by Joe Schafer & Sons at Springfield, and are filling orders for more feed at their plant in Mansfield, Ohio.

Businessmen declined to name their leaders or committees in the cleanup, reporting that "the whole community is donating its services in this project."

Lunch was served by the businessmen. One of the workers consumed 18 of the big wiener sandwiches, full dressed with onions and relish. Coffee makers were kept busy throughout the noon hour.



FIVE TRACTOR SCOOPS and a total of 200 men assembled Monday at Fairbury to remove the last of the wreckage and ashes left by the fire that burned the five story Honegger feed mill. Here is one of the groups loading a truck with ashes.



200 DINNERS were served by Fairbury businessmen to the volunteers in the clean-up. Record consumption there was 18 big wiener sandwiches, full dressed, by one hungry farmer.

Chapter 13

Building of the New Mill in Fairbury in 1949-1950

Back in 1923, Walton's Bros. department store burned down for the third time. All of the citizens of Fairbury were afraid that Walton's would not rebuild after this devastating fire. Fortunately, Walton's did decide to rebuild and this is the building currently located at the northwest corner of Locust and Third Streets.

A similar situation occurred in 1949. Honeggers had started to expand their business in Fairbury. They had recently purchased the Illinois Hotel and set up a new feed mill in the Churchill oats storage building. Then in February of 1949, the feed mill building was totally destroyed by fire. Fairbury citizens wanted Honeggers to build a new feed mill in Fairbury.

In June of 1949, Fairbury citizens were relieved to learn that Honeggers had decided to build a new mill on the west side of town on the railroad tracks.

The June 10, 1949, issue of the Pantagraph announced the decision to build a new feed mill in Fairbury.

Fairbury Plant To Be Rebuilt

Honegger Mill To Make Public Building Plans

FAIRBURY. — The Honegger Feed and Milling Company here, which was forced to suspend local operation following a quarter of a million dollar fire three and one half months ago, will announce definite plans this month for relocating in Fairbury, Manager Ben C. Roth said Thursday.

The June 21, 1949, Pantagraph ran a story about the new feed mill in Fairbury including a map showing the location of key facilities in Fairbury.

Plan to Develop Industrial Site

Fairbury Group Sets Sights For New Plants

By Stanley Lantz, Pantagraph Staff Writer

FAIRBURY. — Si L. Moser, general chairman of a newly created civic improvement association, said here Monday that over \$7,000 has been subscribed to an improvement fund to facilitate and encourage the location of industry at Fairbury.

The association's immediate project is installation of an eight inch water main west beyond the city limits to the site of the proposed Honegger mill, and construction of a roadway north from route 24 to the site.

"We aren't giving Honegger's anything," Mr. Moser said. "the water main and the roadway will be readily available to any business that wants to locate out there and use them."

Plan \$400,000 Plant

The Honegger mill, which burned down in February, has announced plans to construct a \$400,000 plant. It is understood locally that other communities had made strong bids to have the plant located in their localities.

Two things were particularly needed to insure the relocation of the plant in Fairbury: Increased railroad facilities and city water.

By moving outside the city limits, the Honegger company, or any other presumably, becomes eligible for Wabash north-south service which they would not have in town because of the TP&W franchise agreement.

Provide Water

Reluctant to chance losing the Honegger plant from Fairbury, the improvement association was hastily thrown into action to provide the water, which the plant, or any other users, will buy from the city.

The accompanying map shows the plant site and the site of potential developments. Calhoun street, running north and south, marks the city limits.

Keith Anderson, a member of the improvement association, pointed out Monday that the Honegger plant spent more than \$360,000 in Fairbury during the last calendar year, the largest percentage for local labor.

"Everyone of us in business gets some of that money, at least the second time around," Mr. Anderson said. "And a lot of it goes to the farmers of the community, too, although it might be indirectly."

Employs Men

Mr. Anderson said the Honegger mill is the only local industry employing men, and has been the only one since before the depression. There is presently a dress factory employing from 15 to 20 women.

"Fairbury was a larger town by about 700 people before we lost our mines and industries," Mr. Anderson said. Present population is about 2,500.

"The aim of this association is to lend encouragement to industry to locate here if and when such aid is clearly going to be to the advantage of the community," another committee member said.

Mr. Moser declared the current request for contributions is "not the end of the story."

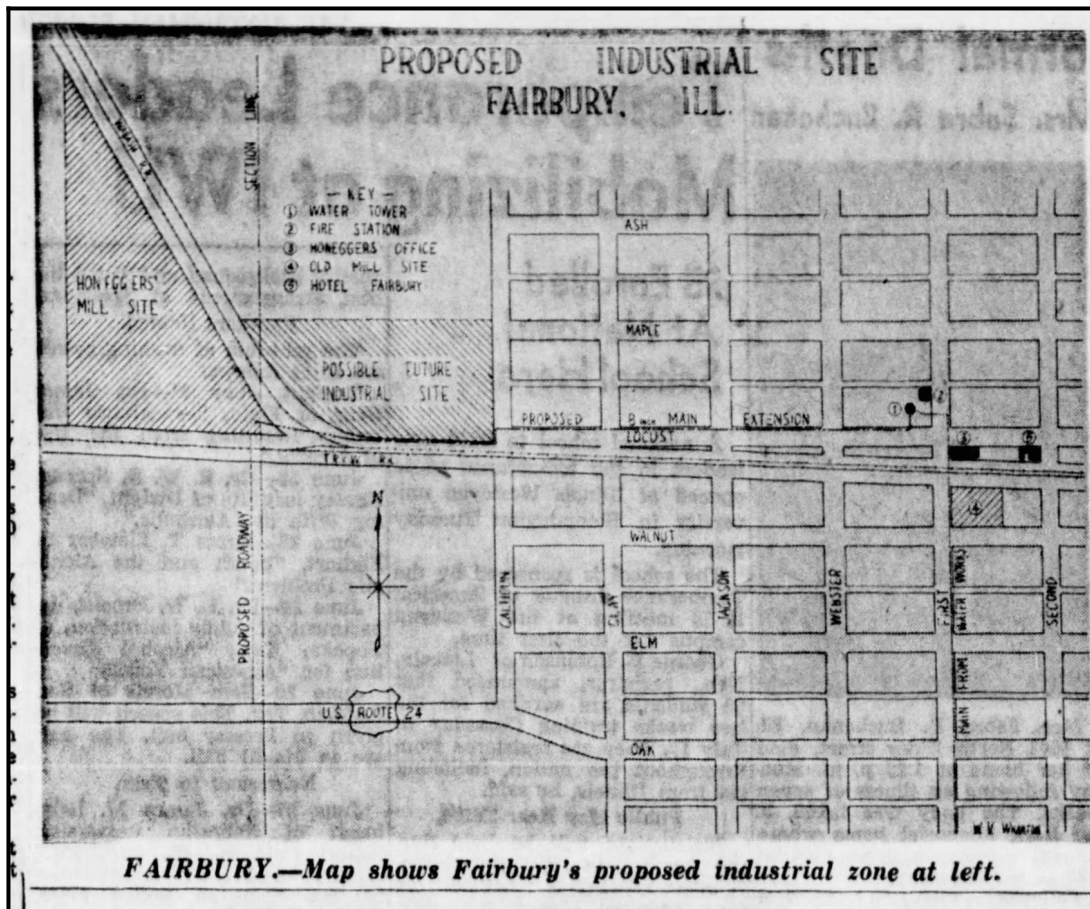
Encourage Industry

"We want to develop that west end so that others will want to open up out there, too," he said.

An article in last week's Fairbury Blade stated that, basing the estimates on the indicated assessment of the proposed building and using current tax rates, the new plant would add \$2,394 in taxes to the county, all but \$204 of which would revert to the local schools and township funds.

Wilmer Ross, president of the Fairbury Business club, appointed the following to act on the improvement project fund:

Mayor Roy Taylor, John Gerber, William Butcher, N. N. Woodall, John Sutter, Lloyd Zimmerman, M. E. Tarpy, and John Wade.



According to Keith Anderson, member of a local committee interested in the plant's rebuilding, the company has arranged the purchase of approximately 11 acres of land in the "Y" between the TP&W and the Wabash tracks.

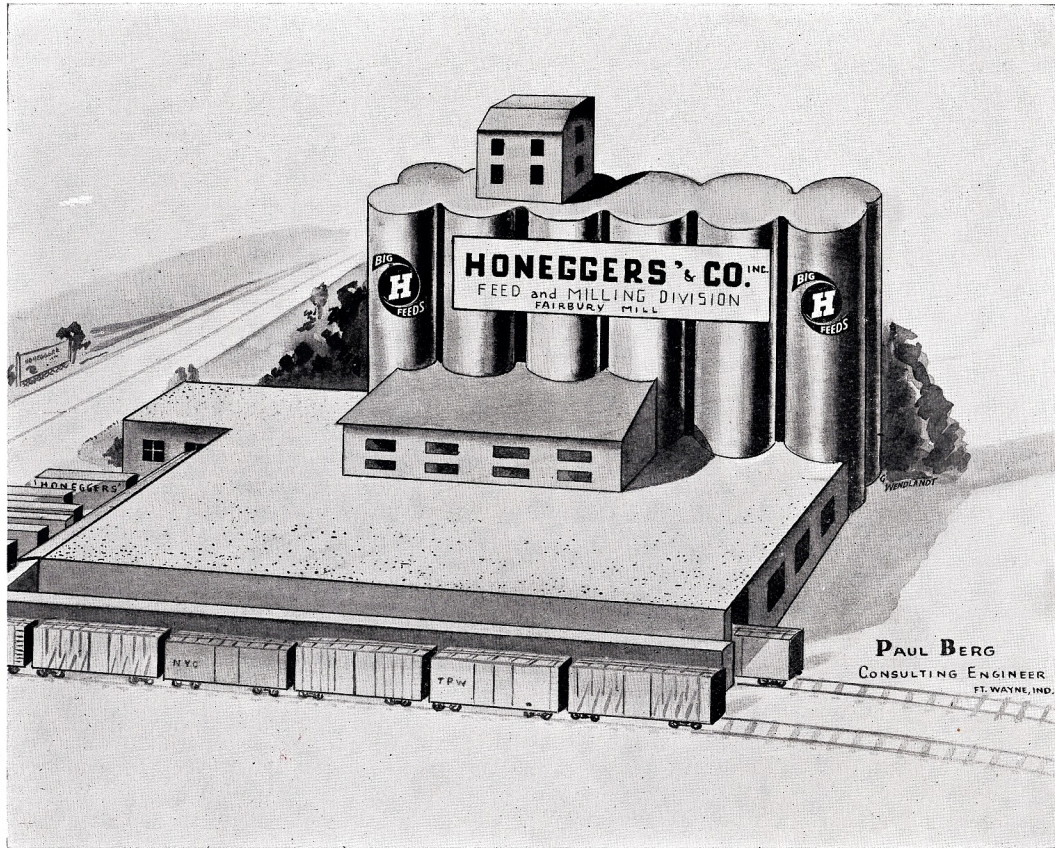
Mr. Roth has secured an agreement with Wabash officials, Mr. Anderson said, waiving the "back haul" from Forrest on main line freight rates. This will open up an entire new area west of Fairbury for a two-railroad station, Mr. Anderson said.

Local businessmen have been active in securing the site, Mr. Anderson continued, and are working to secure needed roadways and water mains to the new factory site.

The new \$600,000 plant that was announced in 1949 would be equivalent to \$4.2 million in today's dollars.

Artist's Conception of New Fairbury Feed Mill

The illustration below was created as an artist's conception of what the new mill would look like.



New 35-Carload Per Day Capacity Honegger Feed Mill Being Built at Fairbury, Illinois

Poultry Production to be Increased

At the same time that Honeggers was planning the new feed mill, they announced their poultry production would be increased per the June 1, 1949, Pantagraph article below.

Larger Hatchery For Honeggers

FORREST. — Sam R. Honegger, president of Honegger & Company, feed manufacturers and operators of a large U. S. certified hatchery, has announced that Lee L. Loomis of Morris has joined the Honegger organization as assistant to his father, A. P. Loomis, poultry breeder in the Honegger organization.

Hatchery capacity this year was 330,000 and production was over a million chicks, all of the same family blood line. Capacity is being increased to 396,000 for next season.

The senior Mr. Loomis has been a specialist in poultry breeding since 1921 and is given credit for laying the foundation for the Honegger Leghorns which have an unusual record of performance. The son has also trained in poultry breeding.

Promotions in the Sales Force

Honeggers also announced two promotions in their sales force per the May 15th, 1949, issue of the Pantagraph.

Honegger Promotions

FAIRBURY. — Two promotions in the sales force of Honeggers' and company are announced here by E. F. Dickey, sales manager.

Lester Roth of Forrest has been named district manager for northwestern Illinois.

Edward Friant of Fairbury is named district manager for west-central Illinois.

Roth-Honegger Store Opens in Bloomington

The September 27, 1949, issue of the Pantagraph published an announcement that a new store was opening soon in Bloomington.

Roth-Honegger Form Firm For McLean County

A new firm known as Roth-Honegger and company has been organized with authorized capital of \$50,000 to furnish farm and poultry service out of Bloomington for Honegger U. S. certified White Leghorn chicks and Honeggers' feeds. Chester D. "Chet" Roth of Bloomington was named president at the final organization meeting Monday morning in Fairbury.

A permanent retail store is to be located in or near Bloomington in the near future, but the firm will be located at 206 West Grove street temporarily, and will replace the Roth phosphate fertilizer service previously conducted there by Mr. Roth.

Incorporators of the new firm include Sam R. Honegger, Frank Honegger, and A. P. Loomis of Forrest; Ben A. Roth, Elmer Roth, Erwin Wascher, C. R. Voris, and E. F. Dickey, all of Fairbury, and C. D. Roth who will serve as manager as well as president.

Egg Grading Service

Poultry and livestock equipment, remedies, insecticides, weedicides, and fertilizers will be features of the services of the new organization. Mr. Roth said that the Schrock natural high test phosphate will continue to be handled.

The Honegger feed and poultry service franchise will be transferred from the Corn Belt Farm store to the new firm.

Egg grading and marketing services such as performed at Forrest for two years will be extended to McLean county through the Roth-Honegger store. Special markets paying premiums for top quality eggs result from such grading programs, Mr. Roth reports.

Big Fairbury Mill

The Honegger organization operates a 400 acre poultry farm at Forrest in conjunction with its big U. S. certified hatchery there. Also the Honegger group has three feed mills, one at Forrest, one at Fairbury, and another at Mansfield, Ohio. A new \$400,000 "push button" feed mill is now being built at Fairbury to replace one that burned in February. Company officials expect the new mill to be in operation before January 1, 1950.

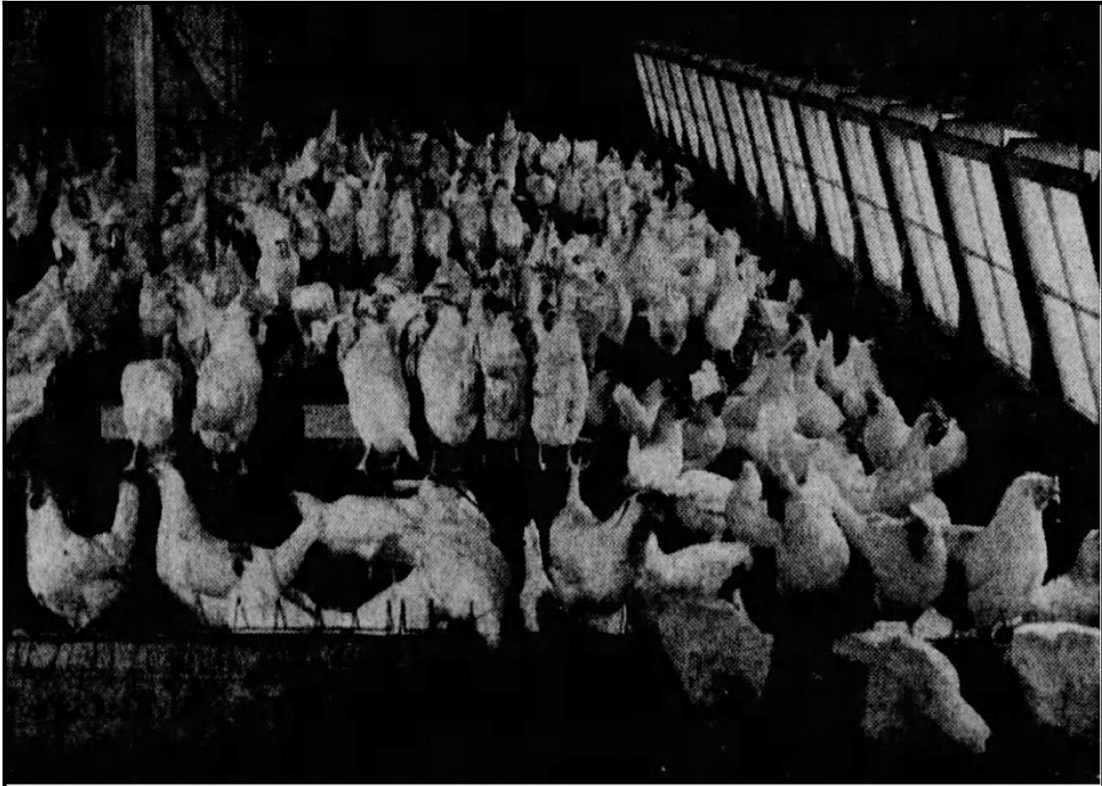
Pantagraph 11 Photo Special Article on Honeggers' & Co.

In the October 15, 1949, edition of the Pantagraph, a pictorial story about Honeggers was published.





STRAIN of White Leghorn chickens has been developed on Honegger farm. Here A. P. Loomis, poultry breeder, supervises blood testing of breeding hens. Tests provide pullorum free seed stock and test feed chicks.

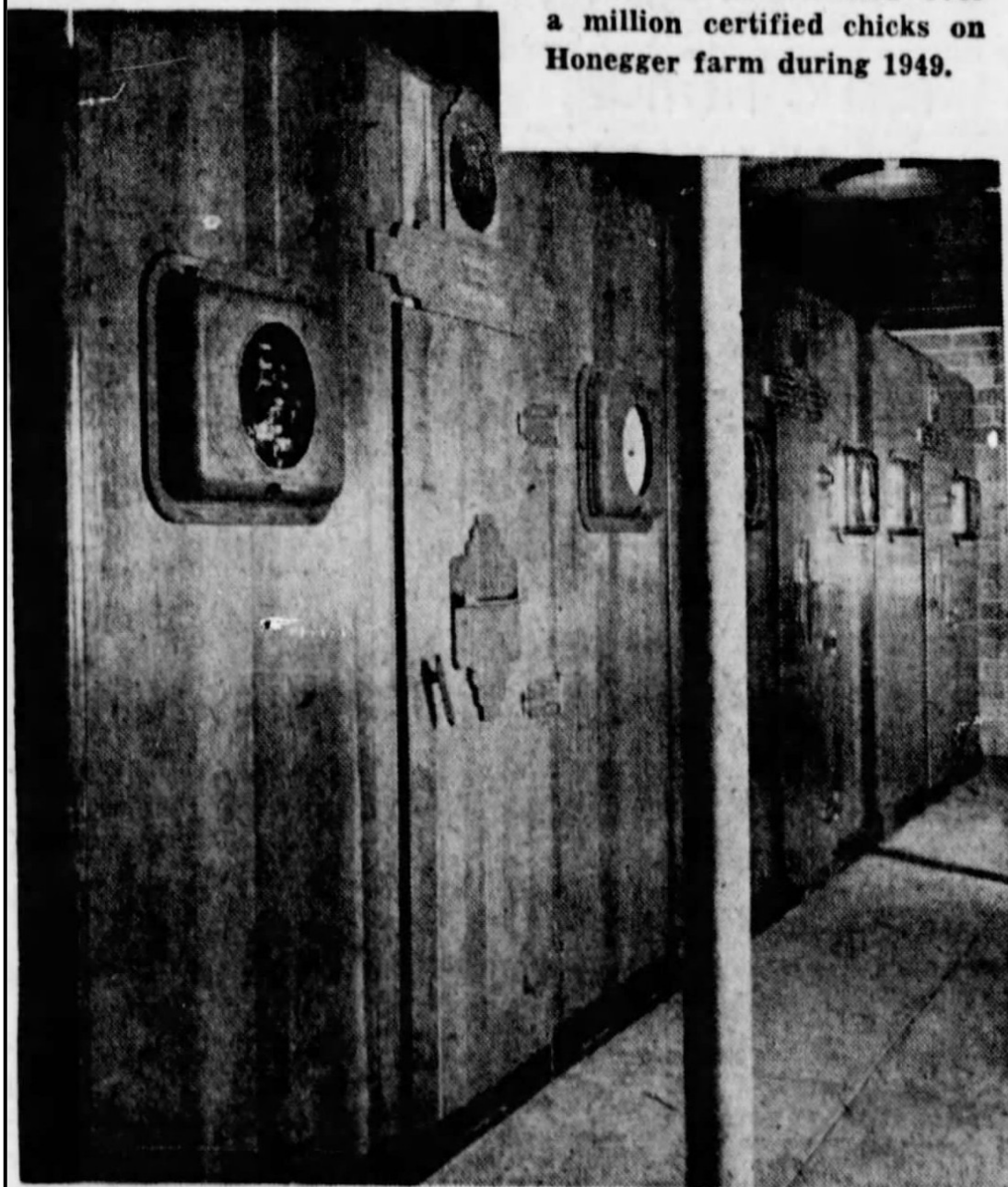


LAYING HOUSES on Forrest farm will accommodate 6,000 laying hens. Honeggers have two other poultry farms in Indiana, one equipped to handle 4,000 laying hens, the other built for 2,000.



SAM HONEGGER examines egg candled by Miss Stephen (center) and graded by Mrs. Mae Hemmer in Honegger's federal-state grading station. Weekly capacity of station is 1,500 cases. First Honegger grading was done at farm, but now egg station is located at Forrest.

INCUBATORS hatched over
a million certified chicks on
Honegger farm during 1949.

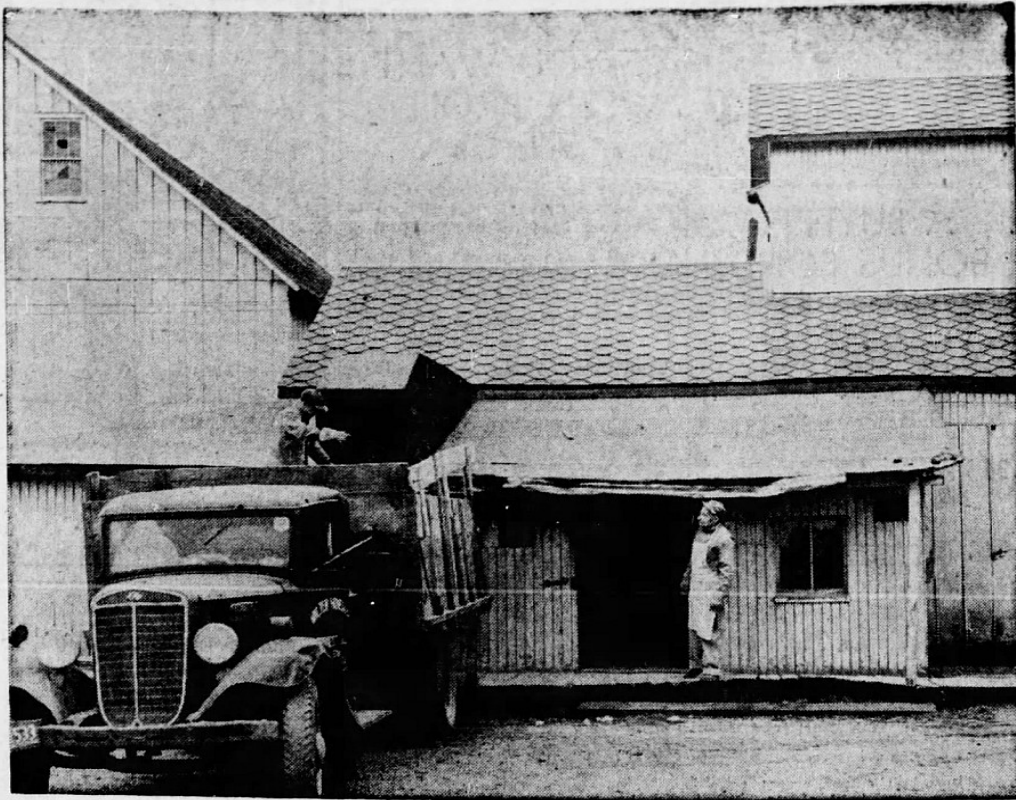




POULTRY DRESSING plant opened last winter at Forrest processes 3,000 chickens and turkeys a week. Here, plant manager, Ed Keiser, inspects plastic packaged turkey in freezing room.



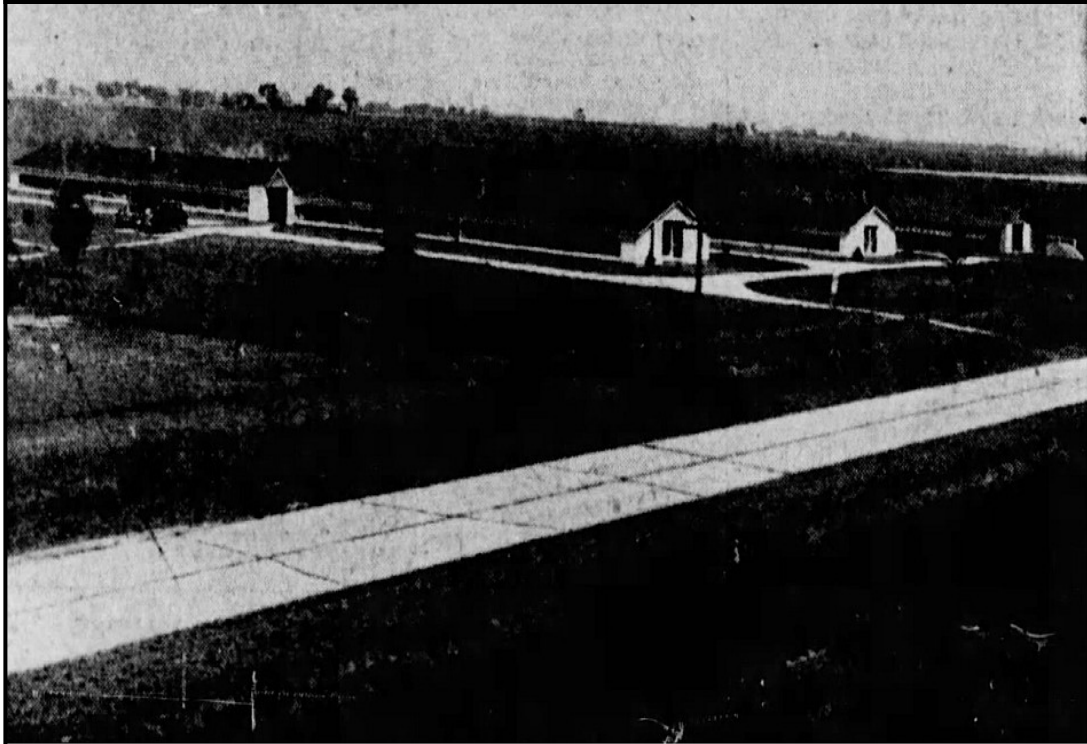
PLANS for new \$400,000 feed mill are examined by company officials (from left), C. R. Voris, secretary-treasurer; A. P. Loomis, vice president, and Ben A. Roth, feed division head.



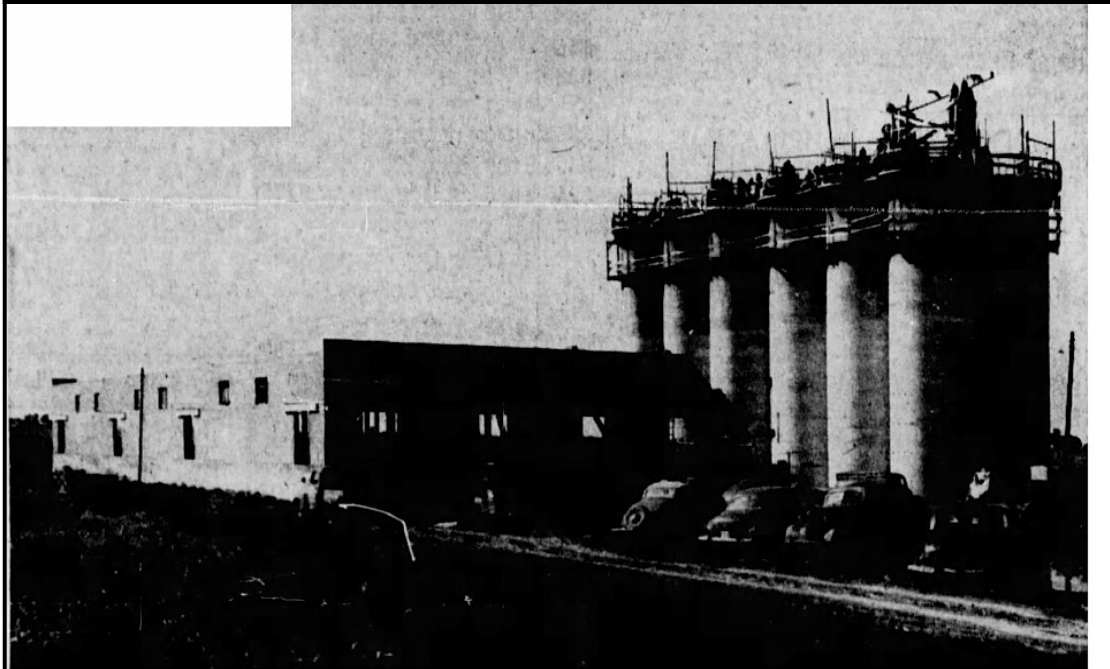
HONEGGERS went into milling business to grind feed for use on home farm. First mill was at farm in above building. In 1928 brothers did some custom grinding. Later they devised chick starter which their sister refused to feed to flock until neighbor proved it safe.



EXPANDING BUSINESS brought construction of second, larger mill west of the original building on route 47. Later, wholesale feed manufacture was transferred to new plant at Fairbury. Fire destroyed Fairbury mill Feb. 24, 1949, and operations were resumed in the old building.



FIRST LARGE laying house of type pictured above was built on Honegger farm in 1938. Family began raising white Leghorns in 1934. First flock consisted of 1,000 baby chicks. At present farm has population of 18,000 pullets, 12,000 of which will be sold for laying hens.



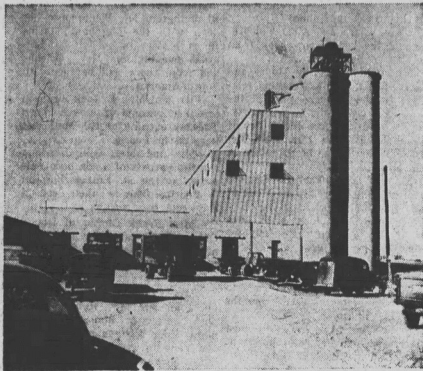
CONSTRUCTION of new mill, shown in above photograph, climaxes 21 years in feed business for Honegger firm. Plant scheduled for partial operation by year's end, will produce 35 carloads of finished feed daily. Twelve silos, each 75 feet high and 14 feet in diameter, will hold total of 120,000 bushels of grain. Mill site is 11 acre plot west of Fairbury.

Chapter 14

Opening of the New Fairbury Mill

Honeggers' & Co. took out an advertisement in the Woodford County Journal on July 27, 1949, inviting the public to the grand opening of their new mill in Fairbury.

**You Are Invited to the Outstanding Educational Event
of the year for farm Profits thru Livestock and Poultry
at The HONEGGER NEW MILL OPENING**



**August 3, 1950
2 p.m. - NEXT THURSDAY - 2 p.m.**

DEAN H. P. RUSK Director College of Agriculture University of Illinois	DR. DAMON CATRON Swine Specialist Iowa State College
DR. CLIFF CARPENTER Pres. American Poultry Industries Chicago	

SEE
AntiBotics and Other New Developments in Swine and Poultry
Tests Now in Progress

TOUR
New Mill and 400-Acre Test Farm Experiments
FFA Test Pigs at Walter Moser Farm

FREE BARBEQUE FAIRBURY FAIRGROUNDS

Tickets Available at all HONEGGER STORES and DEALERS or Drop Card
Ladies Cordially Invited

HONEGGER & CO. INC.
FAIRBURY, ILLINOIS

The August 2, 1949, Pantagraph published an article about the upcoming Honeggers open house for the new Fairbury mill.

Expect 2,000 At Honegger Mill Opening

FAIRBURY. — (PNS) —An invitation to all farmers to attend the formal opening Thursday of their new feed mill has been extended here by Honegger and Company. Two thousand farmers are expected on the tour of the Honegger farms, the mill, and at the barbecue here.

The half million dollar push-button feed mill, ultra-modern in mechanical developments to prepare mixed feeds at low cost, is the big feature of the day's program that will open at 2 p.m. Thursday.

Modern mechanical feeders and other labor saving devices built into a new poultry house on the Honegger farm south of Forrest is another attraction of the day. The big new feed mill here is the culmination of 22 years of progress on the part of Sam and Frank Honegger. It was in 1928 that their farm records revealed a small flock of 100 hens gave greater returns per dollar invested than any other phase of their farming program.

Jerry Andrews, field man for the Farm service, is given credit for pointing out the possibilities of that poultry flock and starting the Honegger brothers on a program that has grown into a million dollar project that includes the nation's largest U. S. Certified hatchery.

Dean H. P. Rusk, head of the Illinois College of Agriculture, will be the principal speaker at the Thursday ceremonies. Dr. Cliff Carpenter, president of the American Poultry Industries, Chicago, and Dr. Damon Catron, swine specialist of Iowa State College, will also take part in the program.

The August 4, 1959, Pantagraph published a thorough story about the new Fairbury feed mill.

One Man Controls Honeggers Feed Mill

Wonder Drugs Added to Rations For Pigs, Chicks

By Frank W. Bill, Pantagraph Farm Editor

FAIRBURY. — The new \$600,000 Honegger feed mill opened here Thursday afternoon proved to be of high interest to the hundreds of farmers and feed dealers who attended the opening following a tour of the farms of Sam and Frank Honegger at Forrest.

One man controls the mixing of 71 different types of feed produced, many of them containing wonder drugs and the latest vitamin compounds that prevent or overcome animal deficiencies and diseases and bring faster gains in weight for pigs and chicks.

Push buttons on the control panel operated the elevators that move feed ingredients from hopper cars into any of the 22 concrete bins in the big mill. Total capacity of the bins is 225,000 bushels.

Little Hand Labor

Other push buttons move the feed materials from storage to the automatic scales and on to the mixing machines, then on to the bagging machines. A total of 700 tons of feed can be mixed in 24 hours.

The only hand labor in the whole process is feeding bags to the automatic machine that fills them with feed and sews the bag shut, then piling the bags on trays handled by the warehouse trucks.

Unusual Laying House

Automatic machinery was also seen in the latest type of laying house on the Honegger poultry farm south of Forrest, on the afternoon tour. From the feed hoppers there, link conveyors move first one feed formula and then another mixture to the long feed troughs through the two story building. One electric motor operates the whole mechanism, and a time clock can be set to change from the forenoon feed formula to the afternoon ration.

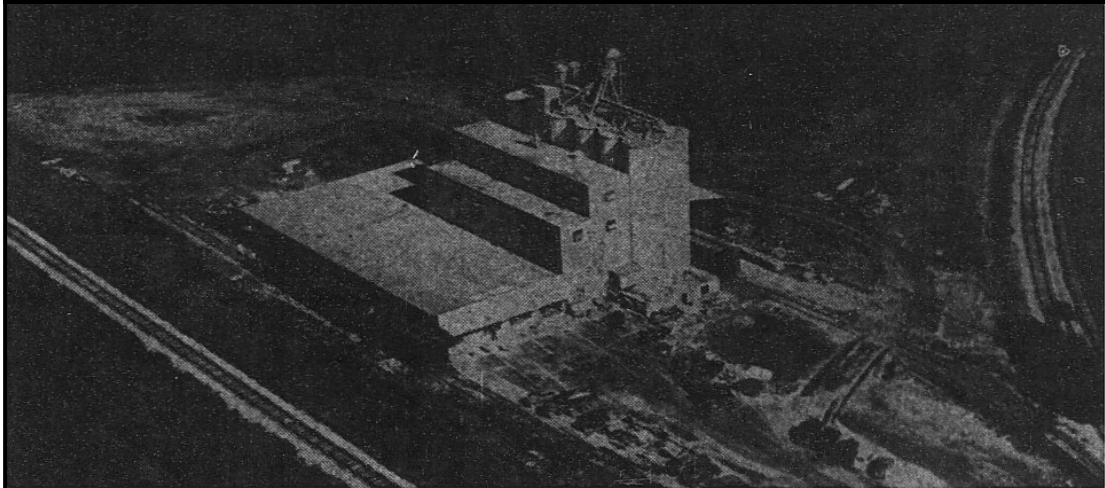
The principal labor involved in the laying houses is the daily collection of eggs, and that is made easy by the convenient arrangement of nests around the vestibule at the entrance.

Sick Pigs Cured

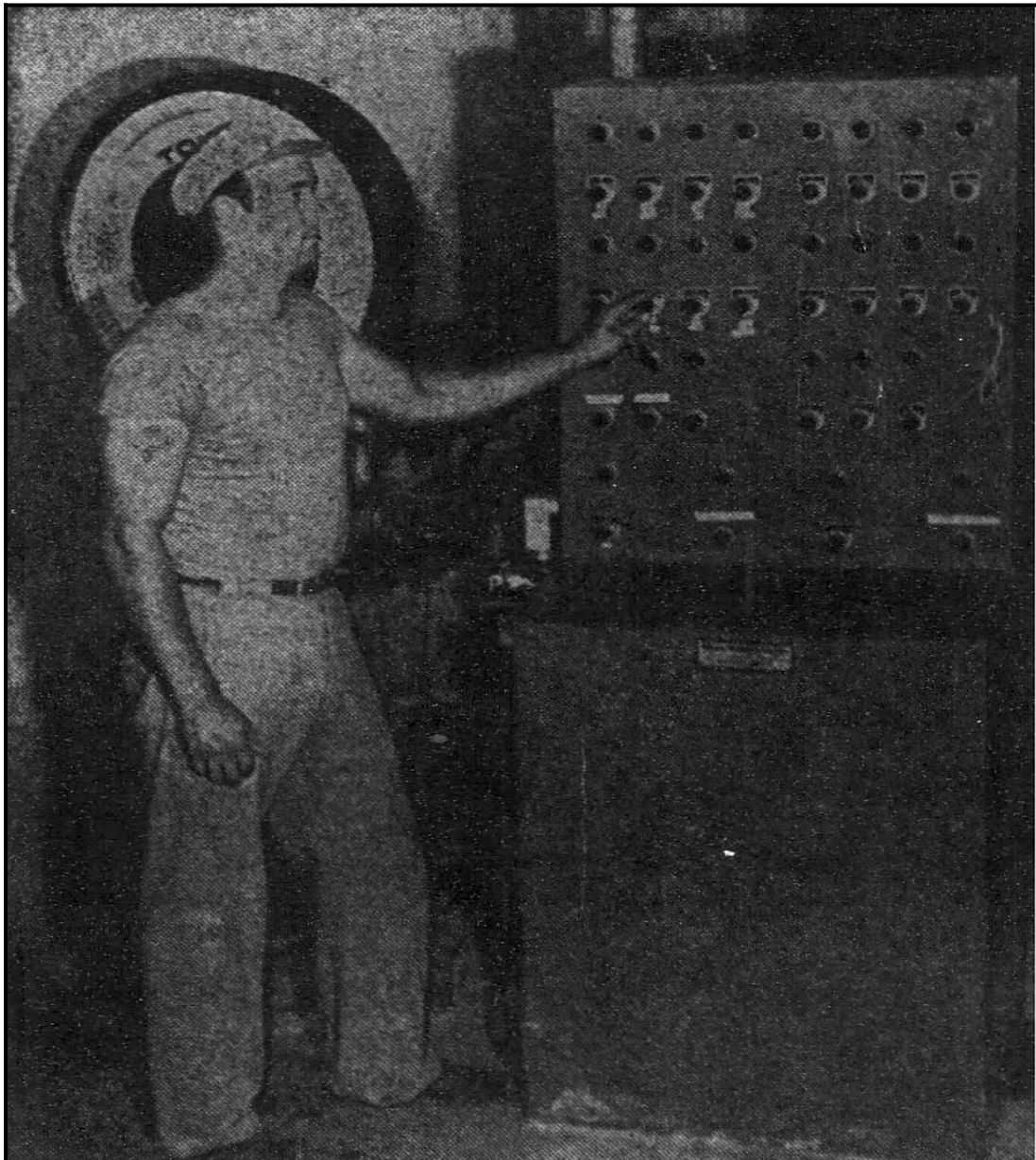
Of high interest on the Honegger tour was inspection of some pig feeding trials with aureomycin, the wonder drug supplied through the animal protein factory.

In one test, runty pigs infected with a disease that threatened to reduce all chance for profit through death losses were found to be making good gains since they were fed a mixture containing the wonder drug and vitamin B-12.

A large crowd gathered at the Fairbury fairgrounds Thursday evening for the barbecue and the night program. Speakers scheduled there were Dean H. P. Rusk of the University of Illinois, Dr. Damon Catron of the Iowa State College, and Dr. Cliff Carpenter, president of the American Poultry Industries.



NEW HONEGGER'S MILL for mixed feeds, located west of Fairbury, has many unusual features that save labor and costs of mixing and sacking. One man can control the entire operation from a central switch panel, mixing any desired formula.



GLENN SPARKS at the Honegger feed mill control panel is shown here operating machinery to move any of the feeds from the many bins to the scales and the mixing chamber, and on to the bagging machine. The only actual labor in the mixing process is moving the sacked mixtures of feed from the bagging machine to the floor piles handles by warehouse lift tractors.

Two Accidents at the New Mill

The November 26, 1949, Pantagraph reported that Mr. Voris had an accident at the new mill.

Fairbury Man Falls, Hurts Back

FAIRBURY. — (PNS) — C. R. Voris, general superintendent of the new Honegger Feed mill here, received a back injury in a fall from a ladder at the plant about 3:30 p. m. Friday. Mr. Voris fell from the ladder on the first floor and landed on the basement floor 10 feet below.

He was taken in a Cook ambulance to Fairbury hospital where he was reported to have one broken and one chipped vertebra. His condition was reported as good.

The January 28, 1950, Pantagraph reported that Mr. Schove had a serious accident at the new mill.

Mill Workman Loses Thumb, Two Fingers

FAIRBURY. —(PNS)— Ernest Shove, workman at the Honegger Mill, near Fairbury, lost his thumb and two fingers of his right hand at 11:30 a. m. Friday when he caught his hand in a conveyor at the mill.

Mr. Shove was taken to the Fairbury hospital. According to his doctor he will be hospitalized for some time.

Mr. Shove said he was not sure how the accident happened but that he had lifted the cover on the conveyor and looked in and then his hand became caught.

In October, Honeggers placed an advertisement in the Pantagraph about the capabilities and facilities of their company.

PIG POPPER
AND
FORTIPIG!

WITH

APF FROM
Aureomycin
FERMENTATION

New Growth Factors
Lowers Feed Costs — Speeds Gain and Profit

ELIMINATES RUNTS & TAIL ENDERS

good **NEWS**

Announcing
**A NEW PROGRAM FOR
MORE FARM PROFITS**

*Here Are Some Facts You Should
Know About*

Honeggers'

HONEGGER'S 400-ACRE PRACTICAL TEST FARM has operated at a profit for nearly a quarter century and is probably the most widely publicized commercial experimental farm in the world.

HONEGGER'S were the first major Midwest feed manufacturers to build high-energy rations along the lines of the Connecticut formula.

Honeggers' BIG "H" FEEDS were among the very first in the country to be packaged in the easy-to-handle, sanitary 50-lb. paper bag.

BIG "H" FEEDS HAVE BEEN CONSTANTLY NUTRITIONALLY FIRST . . . FIRST IN FARM PROFITS!

NOW AVAILABLE!

**INVESTIGATE
NOW**

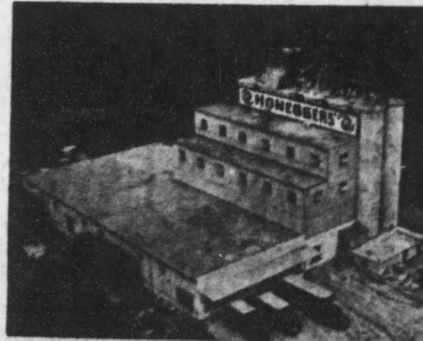


Don't spend a lot of money when a small trial order will show you the amazing difference of the HONEGGER programs for profitable live-stock and poultry production. Phone or come in for complete details.

HONEGGER'S WERE THE FIRST MAJOR FEED MANUFACTURERS IN AMERICA TO FORTIFY ALL FEEDS WITH APF FROM AUREOMYCIN FERMENTATION!

HONEGGER'S HOG PRODUCTION PROGRAM, based on BIG "H" FEEDS with APF from Aureomycin fermentation, B-Complex vitamins, was described in newspapers across the nation as the answer to economical hog production without death losses and runt problems.

Honeggers' operate the largest U. S. Certified Hatchery in the nation.



**NEW MILL GOES INTO FULL PRODUCTION
THIS MILL WAS NOT BUILT . . . IT GREW!**
It grew by making honest products and selling for honest prices. It grew by working with friends and neighbors; by trying to understand their problems and help them make more money. Take advantage of these new ultra modern facilities which make better feeds at lower costs!

Better Feeds; Better Service; Better Prices

HONEGGER'S FARM SERVICE STORES

FORREST FAIRBURY GRIDLEY NORMAL

69

12

60

8308-7

In the Summer of 1950, Honeggers announced a new broiler demonstration plant in a Pantagraph article.

Broiler Demonstration Plant Planned by Honegger Firm

2,000 Hear Dean Praise Records, Farm Research

By Frank W. Bill, Pantagraph Farm Editor

FAIRBURY. — A demonstration plant to see how efficiently poultry can be produced in quantities for meat is next on the program of development for Honeggers' & Company.

That announcement was made by Sam Honegger here Thursday night when 2,000 persons attended the program following opening of the new feed mill by the Honegger Company.

Already Livingston county stands first in the state in poultry population, many farmers' record allowing an income of \$4 per laying hen earned above feed cost, he said. While this area has developed many fine laying flocks, broilers and friers have never been produced in quantities in Illinois although 22 million friers are consumed every year in the state.

Dean Rusk Speaks

Dean H. P. Rusk of the University of Illinois College of Agriculture opened the program at the Fairbury fairgrounds following the barbecue there. He recalled how farm records kept in a project supervised by farm bureaus and the U of I helped Sam and Frank Honegger get started in their poultry project years ago.

Highest praise for these farm records, and for all agricultural research to seek greater efficiency, was voiced by the Dean. Scoop shovel methods of mixing feeds is no longer satisfactory, he said. Research in soils show that as the years pass, new deficiencies develop. There is greater need than ever before for concentrates in the feed mixture, and for continued research to improve the science of production.

Pig Feeding Science

Dr. Damon Catron, swine specialist at the Iowa State College, said it is more important than ever before to feed a balanced ration and there appears to be a great need for the new animal protein factor concentrates.

Iowa State now has 750 experiments on feeding of the new wonder drugs, he said. About 40 per cent of the mid-west farm income comes from hogs, Catron said. And 45 to 50 per cent of all corn is fed to hogs.

There is great opportunity in increasing the efficiency in that production, especially in feeding sows and young pigs, to reduce losses and get maximum health and early gains.

About anyone can feed pigs after they weigh 75 pounds, but special science is required for real efficiency in getting them up to that 75 pound weight. The McLean County System of Swine Sanitation remains of high value, and breeding selections for greater efficiency will improve results for swine producers, he said. Yet feeding methods can be improved greatly.

Big Broiler Industry

Dr. Cliff D. Carpenter, president of the American Poultry Institute, reported that new science in feeding poultry for broilers and fliers has opened new markets for those products. The poultry industry has been a sleeping giant now just awakening, he said. Poultry return an income of three and a half billion dollars annually. Some eastern districts have specialized in broiler production for years, one small area increasing production from 100 to 487 million broilers a year, yet finding a market for all the meat produced, Dr. Carpenter said. Discussion indicated that the very best place for broiler production is near the source of feeds, here in the corn belt.

Corporate Split in 1953

Per the Evlensizer 1969 Thesis, the Forrest poultry operation was spun off from the feed business. On June 30, 1953, the Honegger Farms Co., Inc. business was formed.

The poultry business had become an international operation with 250 associate hatcheries in the United States, Canada, Mexico, South America, Belgium, Holland, and Switzerland. This international aspect of the company is also illustrated in the *1960 Annual Report* chapter.

Koehl Marries into Honegger Family

Velma Jean Honegger was the daughter of founding brother Frank Honegger. In June of 1950, Velma Honegger married Ralph Koehl.

Miss Velma Honegger Bride in Rites Read at Forrest

FORREST. — (PNS) — Miss Velma Jean Honegger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Honegger of Forrest, was married to Ralph Joseph Koehl, son of Mr. and Mrs. Louie Koehl, also of Forrest, at 2 p. m. June 18 at the home of her parents.

The Rev. W. M. Prichard of Fairbury officiated at the double ring ceremony in the presence of the immediate families of the couple. Traditional wedding music was played by Miss Helen Pierson of Sibley.

The bride was attired in white lace over taffeta dress and wore an orchid and white sweet pea corsage.

Miss Marjorie Honegger of Forrest, cousin of the bride, was her attendant. She wore a blue sheer dress over taffeta, and her corsage was of pink carnations.

Dean Koehl of Forrest, brother of the bridegroom was best man.

A dinner for the immediate families was served following the ceremony and was followed by a reception for 175 guests at the home of the brides parents. Assisting at the reception were Miss Betty Koehl, sister of the bridegroom, Miss Esther Kilgus, Miss Mary Kilgus, Miss Viola Honegger, Miss Donna Honegger, and Mrs. Richard Zorn, cousins of the bride.

The couple left for a 10 day wedding journey to Niagara Falls and Canada. For traveling the new Mrs. Koehl wore a white suit. Upon their return, they will reside in Forrest. The bridegroom is employed in the office of Honegger and Company.

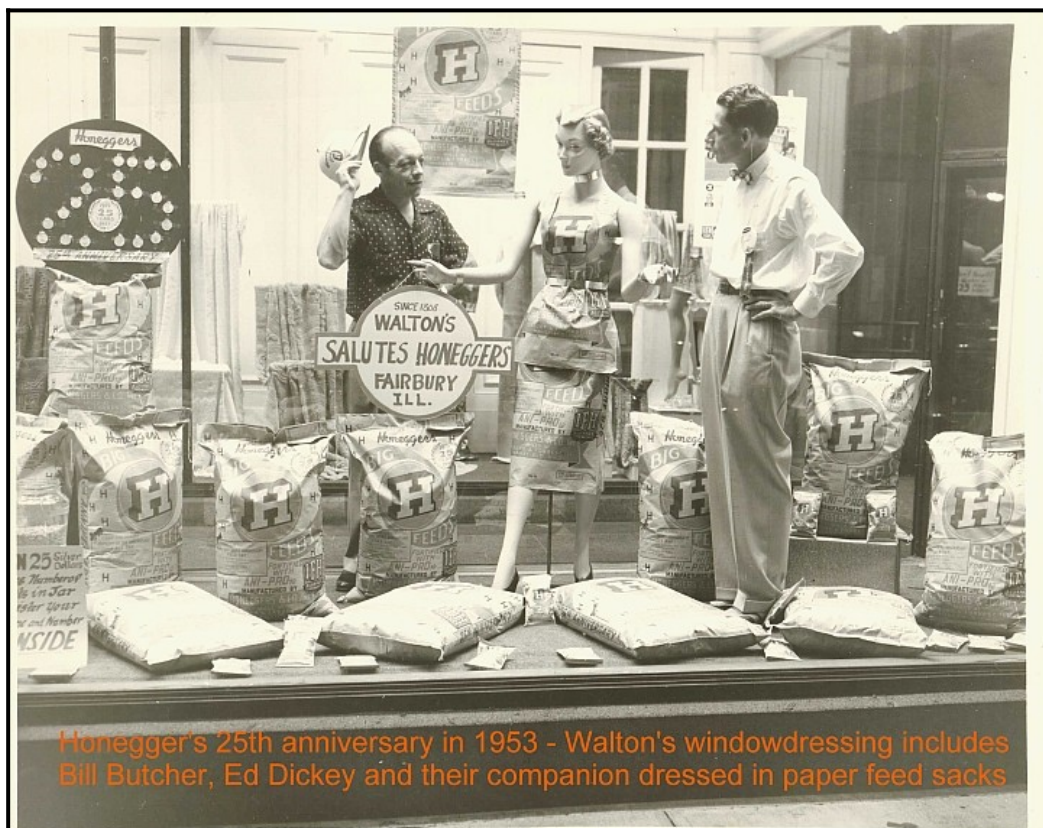
End of Burlap and Cotton Feed Bags

Until 1950, Honeggers' used either a burlap or cotton material for their feed bags. During the Great Depression, many farm wives used the empty feed bags to make clothing, including dresses. The material was also used to make towels and other household items.

Per the Evlensizer 1969 Thesis, the new mill in Fairbury was set up to use paper and not burlap or cotton material for their feed bags. The use of paper bags ended the practice of making clothing and household items from the used feed bags.

The author was told that Honeggers' customers in West Virginia insisted their feed continue to be provided in burlap or cotton bags after 1950. Honeggers' therefore continued to use burlap or cotton for these customers. It is likely another mill owned by or affiliated with Honeggers' located closer to West Virginia produced this feed versus the Fairbury mill.

In 1953, the Walton's Department Store set up a large front window display to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Honeggers. A photograph of this display reveals that paper sacks were used to make a dress on a female mannequin. This makes sense, since the cloth bags were discontinued in 1950.



Honegger's 25th anniversary in 1953 - Walton's windowdressing includes Bill Butcher, Ed Dickey and their companion dressed in paper feed sacks

Chapter 15

Ben Roth Goes to California

The June 9, 1955, Blade had an article about the Ben Roth family leaving Fairbury and moving to Los Angeles, California.

June 9, 1955

Fairbury Blade

Roths to Give Farewell Barbecue

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Roth will close the final page of their chapter of life in Fairbury Saturday night, when they entertain their friends at a barbecue at the Fairbury High School from 4 to 8:30 pm. Mr. Roth reported 250 reservations had been received yesterday.

He plans to personally thank those who have helped him in his business ventures. "A dinner of friendship and fellowship is planned," he said. "I want to say thank you for what has been done."

Mr. Roth pointed out that those guests unable to stay for the entire program are invited to eat and leave whenever they want. Serving will be from 5 to 8 pm. Among the guests who will be present will be Allan B. Kline, former president of the America Farm Bureau Federation, and head of the world federation of farm organization. Dr. S. K. Lai, a medical doctor in India, who attended the Rotary International in Chicago, will show some pictures. Former insurance friends and employees have been invited.

Leaving for Los Angeles.

This month, Mr. Roth will leave for Los Angeles, California, where he will be an associate of the Yates Woods Insurance Agency, representing the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company at 2601 Wilshire Blvd.

"I am changing from the responsibility of feeding animals to that of providing funds to feed and care for human beings," he said.

The five-county agency has more volume than 80 percent of the insurance companies in the United States with an annual volume of \$35 million in ordinary business in addition to their pensions and annuities. Present goal of the company is \$50 million a year. Mr. Roth will specialize in the pension department of the agency.

John Yates, one of the agency founders, is addressing the presidents of all the life insurance companies in the country at their annual convention Oct. 11 in Chicago, and headed the drive to raise funds to build 72 new Methodist churches in southeastern California, Mr. Roth said in describing his co-worker.

The Roths plan to sell their homes in Fairbury and Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Mrs. Roth, Jane, Dixie, and Benny plan to follow Mr. Roth to California in July. The pollen free California air will permit the Roths to have year-around living, without having to move away during the seasons of allergy, Mr. Roth said in explaining their selection of a place to live.

The Los Angeles agency's new efficient office is the show-place of California, Mrs. Roth said. A push of a button slides back the ceiling, leaving the open sky.

At the age of 47—Mr. Roth is beginning a new phase in his life. However, he points out that from 1931 to 1944, he was in the life insurance business. After starting as an agent for the Country Life insurance company at Fairbury, he went to Woodford County in 1932, where he headed the company's organization in the county. In 1934 he took over the management of the McLean county agency. The period of 1939 to 1944 was one of double duty for Mr. Roth, because he was beginning to go into the grain and feed business, although continuing in the insurance field.

Stored Government Corn.

The Ben A. Roth Grain company was formed in 1939, when he bought the Churchill Oats Storage House for \$1,000, plus back taxes.

Government grain stored in the building paid for the building the first year, despite extensive repairs.

In 1940 Mr. Roth went to work for Honeggers as sales manager, and in 1941 became a partner in the concern. The next year the concern began making feed in Mr. Roth's building in Fairbury.

Mr. Roth recalls that the company had sales of less than \$100,000 when he began working for it, and exceeded \$10 million last year, after he had reached the position of President.

Problems Arise

Mr. Roth said that Saturday night he will describe the three crises he helped meet with the company.

No. 1. The war in 1941 and a country mill south of Forrest off a railroad siding, tires rationed, and labor scarce.

We had to decide whether to run a hatchery enterprise only or build a mill during war on a railroad, and build a dealer organization.

No. 2. The TP&W strike in 1945, which lasted a year and a half. Our production was 5,000 tons a month—again with no railroad, and OPA and its restrictions. Finally, trucks helped solve the company's transportation problem.

No. 3. The fire February 24, 1949. This crisis was solved when a \$350,000 mill was built with \$200,000 in actual funds on hand.

He stated that the solution of these problems was made possible by the unsurpassed employee and community cooperation and encouragement.

On December 24, 1954, Mr. Roth sold his one-third interest, although he preferred to purchase the other two-thirds. His financial interest continues in the company until 1954—his personal interest in the community, company, and company employees will never cease.

In 1954, Ben Roth was only 47 years old. Frank Honegger was 53 and Sam Honegger was 49 years old. One interpretation of the Blade article is that Ben Roth offered to buy out both Frank and Sam, but they declined, so Ben Roth sold out his interest in the company to them.

Frank and Sam had founded the company, and were not yet at retirement age. Frank and Sam probably wanted to keep the company until they did reach retirement age. Ben Roth was a very talented businessman and probably decided he would fare better on his own in California.

Someone in the Ben Roth family had severe allergy problems and the move to California would be an improvement for that person.

Ben Roth also had extensive experience in the insurance business before he started to work with Honegger's. He could use this prior experience to help him in the California insurance business.

Chapter 16

Company Economic and Employment Data

According to the Evlensizer 1969 Thesis, Honeggers was initially a partnership between the two brothers. In 1942, Ben Roth was added as a third partner. In 1947, they converted the partnership to a privately held corporation.

According to the November 7, 1958, Securities and Exchange Commission News Digest, Honeggers' & Co. Inc. applied to become a publicly held corporation.

NEWS DIGEST, NOVEMBER 7, 1958

Page 3

HONEGGER'S FILES FOR STOCK OFFERING

Honeggers' & Co., Inc., Fairbury, Ill., today filed a registration statement (File 2-14504) with the SEC seeking registration of 19,000 Common Shares. Of this stock, 18,000 shares are to be offered for public sale by the issuing company and 1,000 shares by a present stockholders.

The stock is to be offered for sale by the company at \$30.50 per share, with a \$2.50 per share commission to the underwriters, headed by Tabor & Co., Fusz-Schmelzle & Co., Inc., and Ellis, Holyoke & Co. The selling stockholder will offer the 1,000 shares at the same price, but not through underwriters. The selling stockholder is L. H. Fairchild, vice president.

The company is engaged in the business of manufacturing and selling formula feeds for livestock, animal and poultry, farm animal shelters and related equipment and supplies. Net proceeds of its stock sale will be added to working capital and used for general corporate purposes, including the financing of increased inventory and increased receivables. The company has undertaken a capital improvement program at an estimated cost of \$518,000 at its plants in Lincoln, Nebr., Indianola, I., and Fairbury and Taylorville, Ill., the major cost of which is being financed through a \$500,000 bank loan.

A copy of a paper stock certificate from Honeggers' is shown below.



The Evelsizer 1969 Thesis has historical information about the financial results and employment of Honeggers' & Co. Inc.

TABLE 9			
HONEGGER'S & CO., INC., NET INCOME NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES AND EARNINGS PER SHARE OF STOCK 1947-1968 ^a			
Year	Net Income (dollars)	Number of employees	Earnings Per Share of Stock
1947	151,942		
1948	50,069		
1949	129,854		
1950	137,170		.52
1951	130,755		.49
1952	90,104		.34
1953	110,882		.42
1953 ^b	390,000		---
1954	112,878		.43
1955	145,316		.53
1956	157,420		.59
1957	131,321	212	.49
1958	249,207	290	.88
1959	228,860	498	.86
1960	94,746	407	.30
1961	284,486	464	.94
1962	134,106	317	.45
1963	-90,494	282	-.29
1964	94,939	256	.30
1965	-19,986	284	-.06
1966	85,005	283	.27
1967	153,765	304	.49
1968	-543,026	293	-1.74
b Adjustment due to spin-off of Honegger Farms Co., Inc.			
^a Honeggers' & Co., Inc., <u>Annual Reports</u> , 1947-1968.			

It is interesting to note that the peak employment of Honeggers' & Co. Inc. was almost 500 employees in 1959. The Evelsizer 1969 Thesis also has a table showing the historical value of the common stock of Honeggers' & Co. Inc.

TABLE 10
VALUE OF HONEGGER STOCK PER SHARE
1946-1966^a

Year		Value Per Share (Dollars)
	1946	25.00
	1948	40.00
	1949	42.00
	1950	50.00
Dec.	1954	70.23
Feb.	1956	81.21
Sept.	1956	92.30
Aug.	1957	24.00
Jan.	1958	25.00
Jan.	1959	22.00
Jan.	1960	15.00 - 17.00
Jan.	1961	11.00 - 13.00
Dec.	1962	5.00 - 6.50
Dec.	1963	5.25 - 6.50
Dec.	1964	4.25 - 4.88
Dec.	1965	4.25 - 4.88
Dec.	1966	5.50 - 6.50

^a Honeggers' & Co., Inc., Annual Reports, 1964-1968.

A third factor reflecting, to some extent, the impending crisis is indicated in the annual tonnage production record of all Honegger plants as shown in Table 11. As profits declined or losses were incurred, tonnage declined, although total production still remained relatively high.

The peak common stock price was \$92.30 per share in 1956. At this time, the ticker symbol for the stock of Honeggers' & Co., Inc. is not known.

The Evalsizer 1969 Thesis also has a table showing the historical tons of feed produced.

TABLE 11

HONEGGERS' & CO., INC., ANNUAL TONNAGE
ALL MILLS 1949-1965^a

Year	Annual Production (tons)
1948-49	28,311
1949-50	36,478
1950-51	64,183
1951-52	85,746
1952-53	85,913
1953-54	110,222
1954-55	120,783
1955-56	121,682
1956-57	124,230
1957-58	127,763
1958-59	147,655
1959-60	127,283
1960-61	150,081
1961-62	125,155
1962-63	137,541
1963-64	116,115
1964-65	110,000

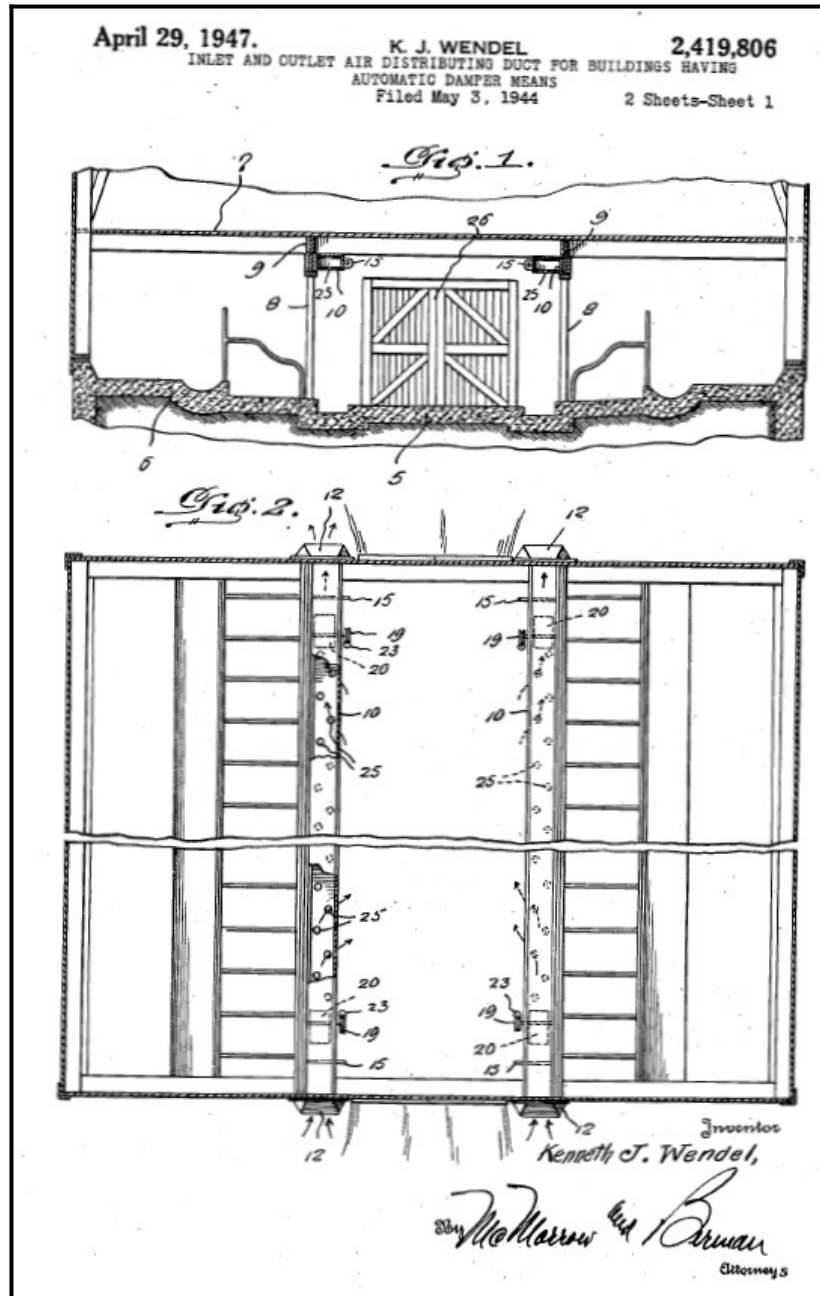
^aHoneggers' & Co., Inc., Prospectus, December 12, 1958, and
Clarence S. Bell, President's Report to the Board of Directors,
October, 1964.

Chapter 17

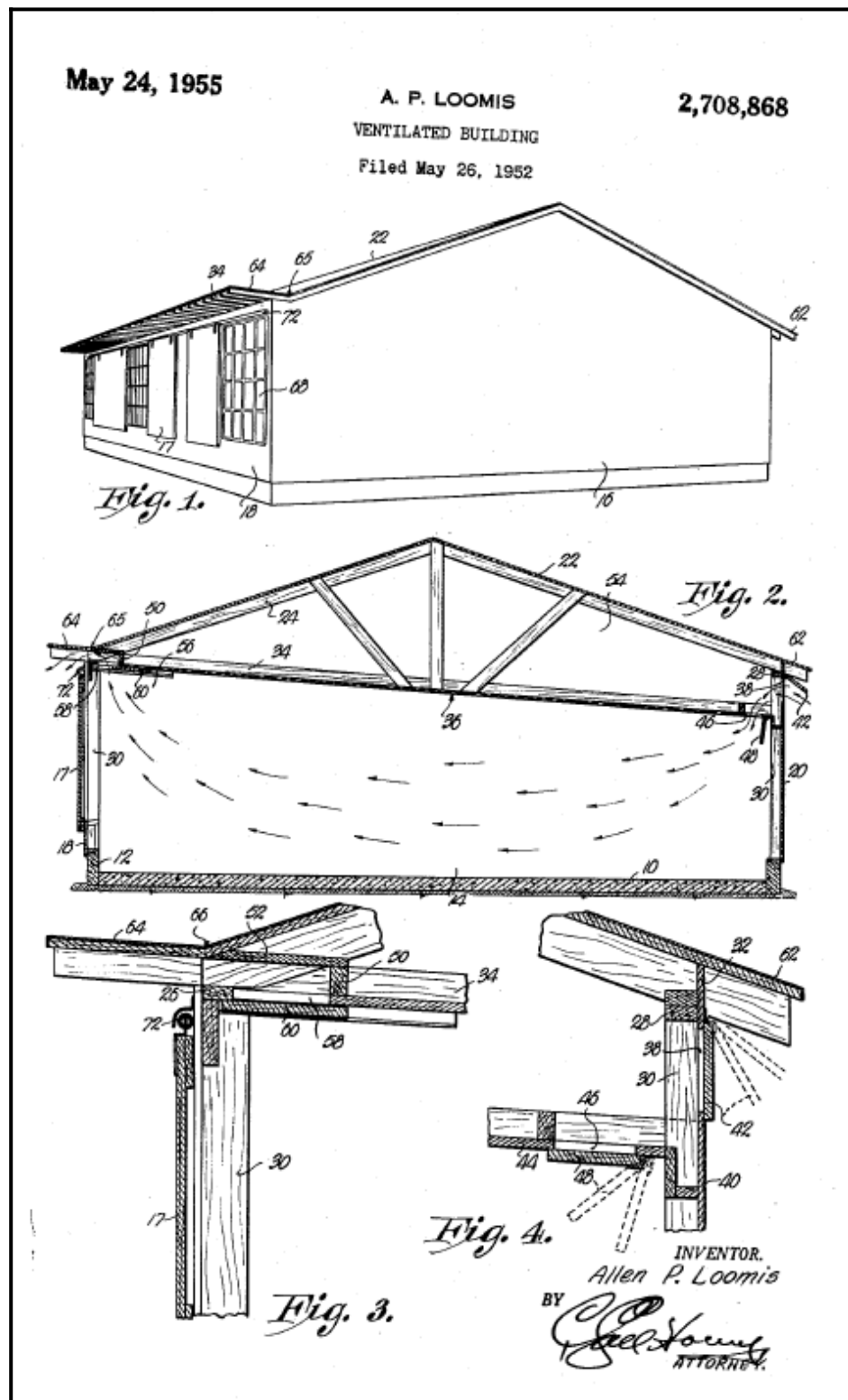
U.S. Patents Assigned to Honeggers' & Co. Inc.

A patent search uncovered four U.S. patents that were assigned to Honeggers' & Co. Inc.

The first patent was issued in 1947.



The second patent was issued in 1955.



1

2,708,868

VENTILATED BUILDING

Allen P. Loomis, Forrest, Ill., assignor to Honeggers' & Co., Inc., Fairbury, Ill., a corporation of Illinois

Application May 26, 1952, Serial No. 289,940

2 Claims. (Cl. 98-32)

This invention relates to improvements in building construction, particularly those of the less expensive type commonly termed "out-buildings" on farms, ranches and the like, the primary object being to provide extremely inexpensive, yet highly efficient ventilating means adapting the building therefore for such uses as housing of chickens, animals and the like wherein it is desired to provide no draft air circulation.

Farmers, ranchers and particularly more specialized producers of livestock, poultry and the like, well appreciate the advantage, if not absolute necessity, for brooders, laying houses, scratching pens and the like, to be well ventilated, but heretofore attempts along this line have resulted in drafts that cause sickness and unhealthy conditions generally. Continuous flow of air through a building of this character is difficult to attain without also experiencing a direct draft upon the birds or animals housed within the building.

It is accordingly, the most important object of this invention to provide a ventilated building wherein the circulating air enters along one side of the building and exits in opposed relationship thereto continuously and without draft within the space wherein the birds or animals are housed.

Another object hereof is to provide a ventilated building wherein the ceiling and roof are utilized advantageously to effect the objects hereof, presenting a space above the ceiling and below the roof for initially receiving the incoming ventilating air prior to discharge into the space below the ceiling and ultimately back out of the building at the opposite side thereof.

Other objects include the way in which the ceiling is dropped at one end thereof to render a portion of one side wall available for forming an air inlet opening below the roof; the way in which the ceiling has an air passage port for directing the ventilating air to the space therebeneath; the way in which the air is exhausted from the building at the opposite side thereof; and many more minor objects all of which will be made clear as the following specification progresses.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is an end perspective view of a ventilated building made pursuant to the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a vertical, transverse, cross-sectional view through the building.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged, fragmentary, cross-sectional view adjacent one side of the building; and

Fig. 4 is a vertical, cross-sectional view similar to Fig. 3 adjacent the opposite side of the building.

The building hereof may be provided with a floor 10 and a foundation 12 carrying a pair of end walls 14 and 16, a front or side wall 18 and a rear or side wall 20. A roof 22 is coextensive in length with the side walls 18 and 20 and includes a plurality of rafters 24 that rest upon top plates 26 and 28 in turn carried by studs 30 of walls 18 and 20 respectively. While the spaces between the rafters 24, which rest upon the plate 28, are preferably filled with paneling 32 to close the same, the spaces

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between the rafters 24 above the plate 26, are open to the atmosphere.

Plate 26 also receives a plurality of joists 34 that receive suitable paneling as shown, to present a ceiling 36. The ends of the joists 34 adjacent the wall 20, are secured to the studs 30 of the latter below the uppermost end of plate 28 of the wall 20, ceiling 36 therefore, inclining downwardly from the wall 18 to the wall 20.

An air inlet opening 38 formed in the siding 40 of the wall 20 preferably extends the entire length of the building interrupted only by the proximal studs 30. Opening 38 is provided with a small gate 42, hinged to the siding 40 and manifestly, gate 42 may be provided with any suitable means to hold the same closed, fully open or in an adjusted position, such means not being shown.

The paneling 44 for forming the ceiling 36, is likewise provided with an opening or part 46 extending preferably from wall 14 to wall 16 and interrupted only by the joists 34. The opening 46 is next adjacent the opening 38 and may be closed by means of a hinged mounted gate 48 carried by the paneling 44. Here again, gate 48 may well be provided with means to hold the same in an adjusted position with respect to the opening 46.

The joists 34 are interconnected by a plurality of spacers 50 adjacent the front wall 18, spacers 50 receiving plates 52 disposed between the rafters 24 and cooperating with the spacers 50 to close space 54 between roof 22 and the ceiling 36. In other words, the space 54 is entirely closed not only with respect to the atmosphere, but with respect to space or building interior 56 beneath the ceiling 36 except only for the openings 38 and 46 since spacers 50 and plates 52 constitute in effect, an extension of paneling 44 and form a part of ceiling 36 so far as defining spaces 54 and 56 is concerned. Paneling 44 has another opening 58 extending from wall 14 to wall 16 and interrupted only by the joists 34 and rafters 24. The opening 58 is immediately below the plates 52 and may be closed by means of an elongated transversely reciprocable gate 60 that underlies the plate 26 when in the closed position as shown in full lines by Fig. 3. Alternately, gate 60 may be hinged mounted at its forward-most edge for swinging movement on a horizontal axis toward and away from front wall 18. Gate 48 may likewise be slidably mounted if desired. Entrance of moisture directly into and through the opening 38 is prevented by means of an over-hang 62 forming a part of the roof 22. A similar over-hang 64 adjacent the wall 18 is preferably disposed substantially in a horizontal plane to present a trough 66 for collecting water and to avoid obstruction of light and sunshine through glass windows 68 and through screens (not shown) behind hanging doors 72 when the latter are shifted along tracks 72 to an open position.

Many other advantageous features in the chicken house herein illustrated are contemplated, relating particularly to the arrangement of nests, roosts, feeding space and the like; since the same form no part of the present invention, they have not been shown.

It is seen that when the gates 42, 48 and 60 are all open as shown in Fig. 2 of the drawing, air enters the space 54 through the opening 38 and thereupon travels downwardly through the opening 46 into the space 56, all as indicated by arrows in Fig. 2. This ventilating air escapes from the space 56 upwardly through the opening 58, between joists 34 and rafters 24, over plate 26. By forcing the air to first enter the space 54, it is impossible to receive a direct draft within the space 56. Even if prevailing winds of a relative strong nature tend to force a large amount of air into the building by way of opening 38, such air loses its velocity within the space 54 and escapes into the space 56 with sufficient speed to provide adequate ventilation without draft. Weather conditions

top of a vertical shaft 36 extending upwardly from a vertically disposed hydraulic cylinder 37 located in a floor pit or recess 39 containing a pump 38 connected to cylinder 37 by a line 41 for introducing fluid into the bottom of cylinder 37 for elevating turntable 33 to the position illustrated in FIGURE 2.

When article or bag 15 hits switch 26 on dispenser member 25, a conventional electrical circuit is energized to engage a conventional electromagnetic brake and release a conventional electromagnetic clutch on each of dispenser conveyor motors 23, 24; and this stops dispenser conveyors 21, 22 with bag 15 in a first bag-receiving location having a downstream end defined by member 25.

The engagement of switch 26 also energizes a conventional electrical circuit, including a solenoid valve, to operate dispenser door pistons 29, 30 in a manner which opens dispenser doors 27, 28. When this occurs, bag 15 drops vertically downwardly, directly onto the peripheral portion of pallet 32 underlying the dispenser.

In addition to opening the dispenser doors, engagement of switch 26 energizes a further conventional electrical circuit, including a solenoid valve, to operate another piston 46 to lower a gate 45 located immediately upstream of dispenser front entrance 14. The lowering of gate 45 blocks articles 15 on conveyors 16, 17 from moving through entrance 14 into dispenser 20, while doors 27, 28 of the dispenser are open.

Engagement of switch 26 also actuates a conventional timer which acts as a time delay for energizing a conventional electrical circuit for actuating turntable-rotating mechanism 34.

Referring to FIGURE 10, turntable-rotating mechanism 34 includes a motor 50 having a normally engaged brake 51, and driving a normally disengaged clutch 52 drivingly engaged to a gear system 53 connected to turntable 33. At the end of the time delay, conventional electromagnets (not shown) are actuated to disengage brake 51 and engage clutch 52; and this drivingly connects motor 50 to gear system 53. Turntable 33 is drivingly connected to the top portion of gear system 53 which is constructed to rotate turntable 33 one-quarter turn (90°) for every full turn (360°) of a bottom portion 54 of gear system 53. Gear system 53 may be of conventional construction, e.g., a Geneva mechanism.

Turntable 33 and pallet 32 rotate 90°, or a quarter turn, after a bag has dropped upon the periphery of pallet 32, rather than during the bag drop, because of the time delay between the opening of the dispenser doors 27, 28 and the engagement of clutch 52 in turntable-rotating mechanism 34.

When the lower portion 54 of gear mechanism 53 rotates a full turn, it engages a switch 55 (FIG. 10) which de-energizes the electromagnets operating clutch 52 and brake 51, the result being a disengagement of clutch 52 and a re-engagement of brake 51, thus stopping the rotation of turntable 33.

Switch 55 is also electrically connected to a pair of conventional counters 170, 171 (FIG. 11) to be described subsequently.

Switch 55 is additionally electrically connected to the solenoid valve which actuates the pistons 29, 30 which operate dispenser doors 27, 28, and engagement of switch 55 operates pistons 29, 30 to close dispenser doors 27, 28.

When dispenser doors 27, 28 close, one of them actuates a switch 57 (FIG. 3) which is electrically connected by conventional circuitry to the solenoid valve which controls piston 46 on gate 45, and to the electromagnets which control the brakes and clutches on dispenser conveyor motors 23, 24. As a result, engagement of switch 57 actuates piston 46 to raise gate 45 and disengages the brakes and re-engages the clutches on dispenser conveyor motors 23, 24, thus causing dispenser conveyors 21, 22 to resume operation.

While gate 45 had been in a lowered position, blocking entry of additional bags 15 into dispenser 20, a bag 15

had been advanced by conveyor 16 into a position above conveyor 17 and in which the downstream end of the bag engages a switch 58 on the upstream side of gate 45.

Switch 58 is an override in the circuit which operates gate piston 46, so that unless switch 58 has been engaged by a bag 15, piston 46 will not operate to raise gate 45. In addition, this override contains a conventional time delay which must first elapse before piston 46 is actuated to raise gate 45.

When switch 57 is engaged by one of the closing dispenser doors, it causes energization of a conventional electrical circuit, including a solenoid valve, which operates a piston 60 connected to conveyor 17 from below at the downstream end of the conveyor. Conveyor 17 is a relatively high speed conveyor, compared to the speed at which conveyor 16 operates; and conveyor 17 is mounted for pivotal movement about an axis 59 at the upstream end of the conveyor. Conveyor 17 has a pair of tracks 61, 62, each of which is located on a respective opposite side of the single track of conveyor 16. In other words, conveyor 17 straddles conveyor 16.

When piston 60 is actuated by engagement of dispenser door switch 57, it operates to pivot conveyor 17 in a counterclockwise sense about its pivotal axis 59 (as viewed in FIGURE 2) and, thus, raises conveyor 17 into engagement with a bag 15 thereabove. This lifts the bag up off of conveyor 16. At the same time, gate 45 has been raised by piston 46, so that high speed conveyor 17 shoots bag 15 through dispenser entrance 14 onto the dispenser conveyors 21, 22 which carry the bag in a downstream direction along the path extending from entrance 14 to back end 13 of dispenser 20.

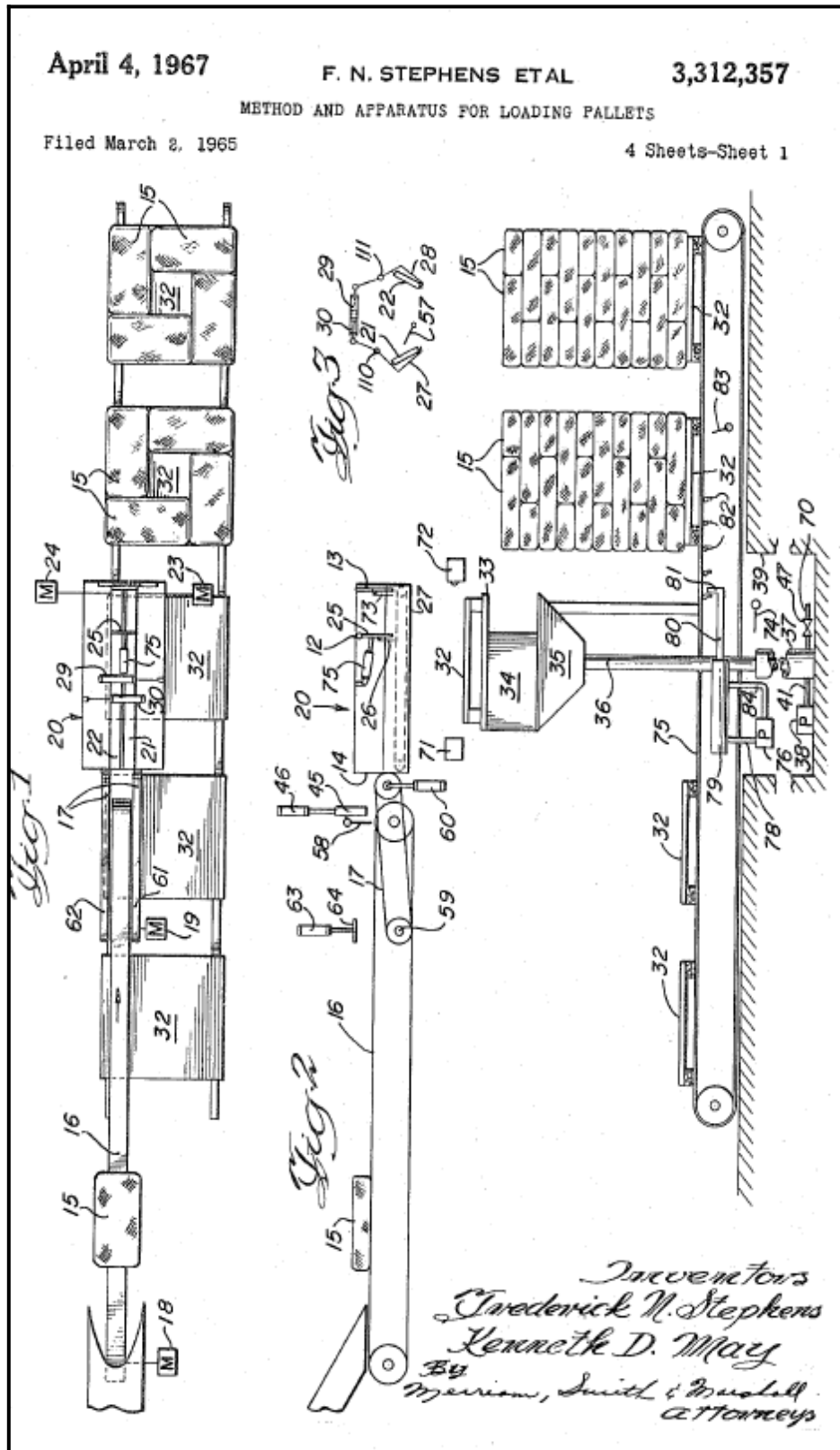
As bag 15 is carried by high speed conveyor 17, the top surface of the bag 15 maintains engagement with gate switch 58 until the upstream end of bag 15 has cleared gate 45, at which time switch 58 is disengaged, thereby opening the circuit which actuates piston 46, causing the latter to be operated in a manner which lowers gate 45.

The same solenoid valve which controls the operation of piston 46 also controls the operation of another piston 63 which raises and lowers a clamp 64 located upstream of bag gate 45. Clamp 64 acts as a gate to prevent a trailing bag 15 from following too closely to the leading bag 15 engaged by high speed conveyor 17. More specifically, when piston 46 is operated to raise gate 45, piston 63 is operated to lower clamp 64. As a result, if a trailing bag 15 is too close behind the leading bag, the trailing bag is engaged by clamp 64 and held in place until the clamp is raised. Clamp 64 is raised when gate 45 is lowered.

When gate switch 58 is no longer engaged by a bag 15, this opens the circuit which operates piston 60, and causes piston 60 to lower conveyor 17 from its bag-engaging position, by pivoting conveyor 17 in a clockwise sense about its axis 59, as viewed in FIGURE 2.

Referring to FIGURE 11, each engagement of switch 55 on the turntable-rotating mechanism actuates a pair of counters, one of which, 170, may be in the form of a rotary switch having eight positions, for example. Each time switch 55 is engaged, rotary switch 170 is actuated to move one position, e.g., by a rotary solenoid 172 which is constructed to rotate one-eighth of a revolution each time it is energized. When the rotary switch 170 has moved to the fourth position, it energizes a conventional electrical circuit (not shown in FIG. 11) to open a solenoid valve 47 (FIG. 2) on a line 70 connected to the bottom of hydraulic cylinder 37 to bleed fluid out of cylinder 37 through line 70. As a result, gravity causes downward movement of shaft 36, frame 35, turntable-rotating mechanism 34, turntable 33 and pallet 32 with its tier of bags 15. This downward movement continues until the top of the tier on pallet 32 drops below the level of a light beam emanating from a light source 72. This light beam, which has previously been blocked by the bags on the pallet, is sensed by photoelectric cell 71 which then

The third patent was issued in 1967.



April 4, 1967

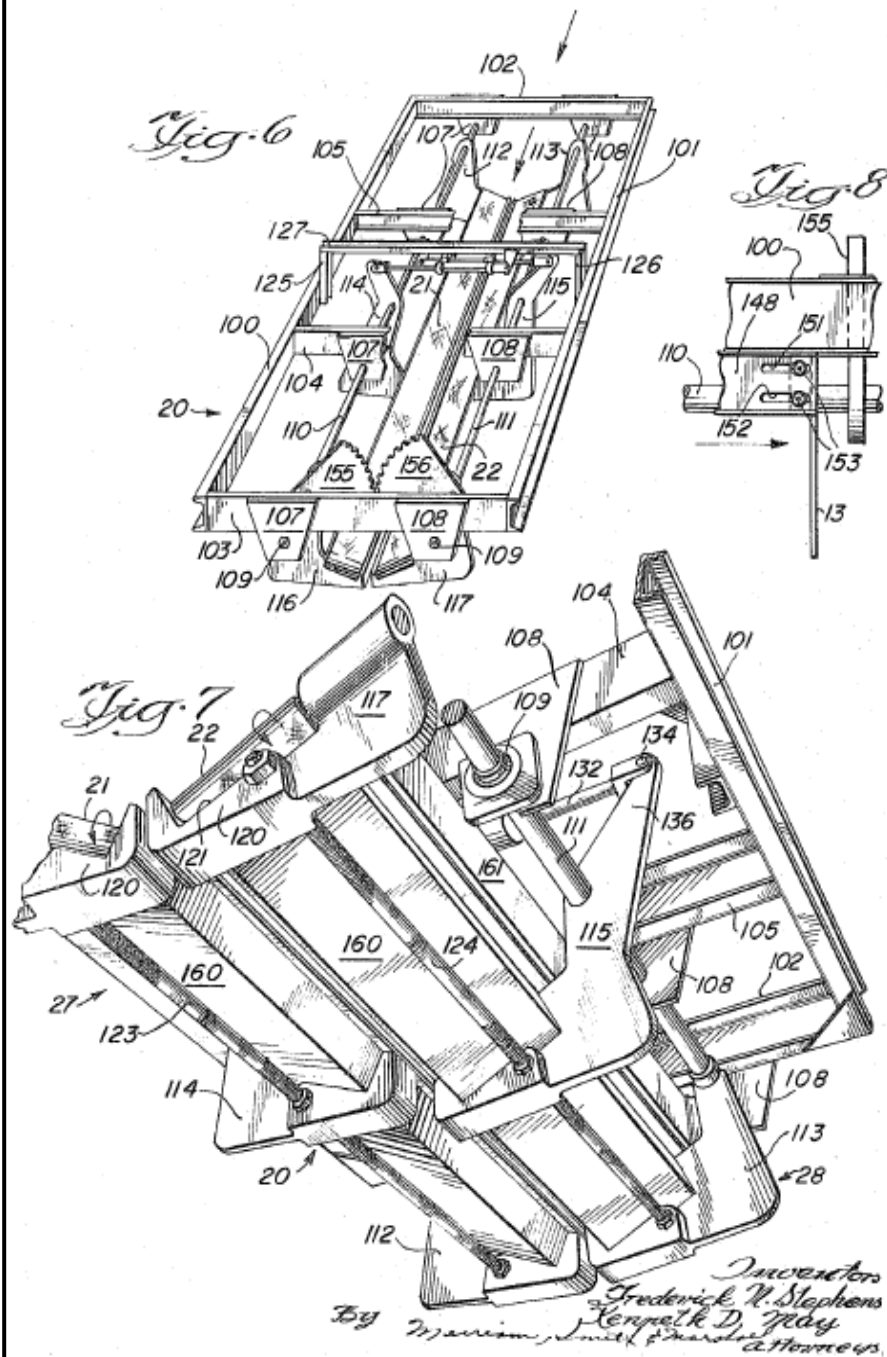
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3,312,357

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR LOADING PALLETS

Filed March 2, 1965

4 Sheets-Sheet 3



April 4, 1967

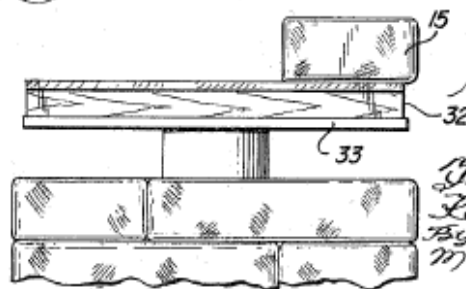
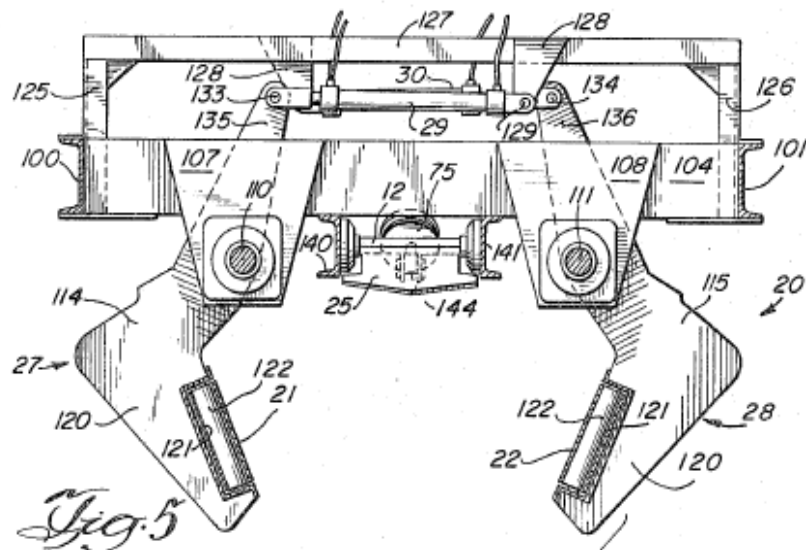
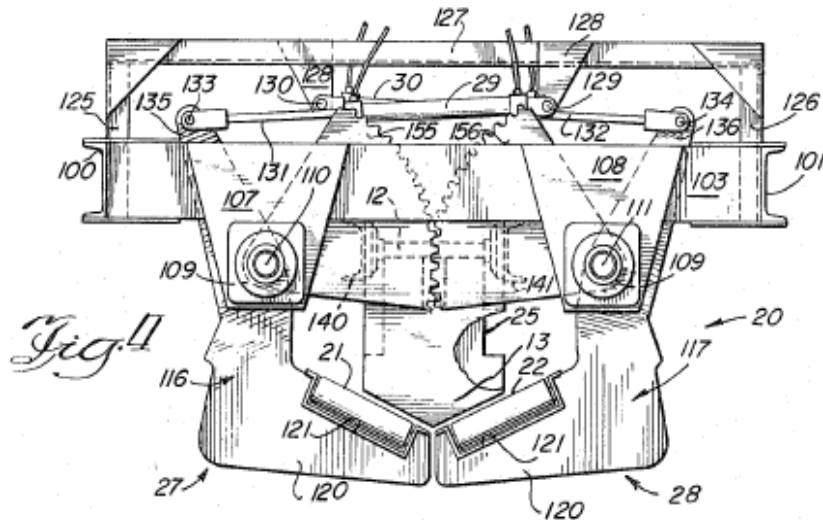
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3,312,357

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR LOADING PALLETS

Filed March 2, 1965

4 Sheets-Sheet 2



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The fourth patent was issued in 1971.

United States Patent

[11] 3,592,368

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[21] Appl No	838,536	1,966,326	7/1934	Wentorf	222/239 X
[22] Filed	July 2, 1969	2,514,962	7/1950	McElhatton.....	239/686 X
[45] Patented	July 13, 1971	2,644,618	7/1953	Oehler.....	222/410 X
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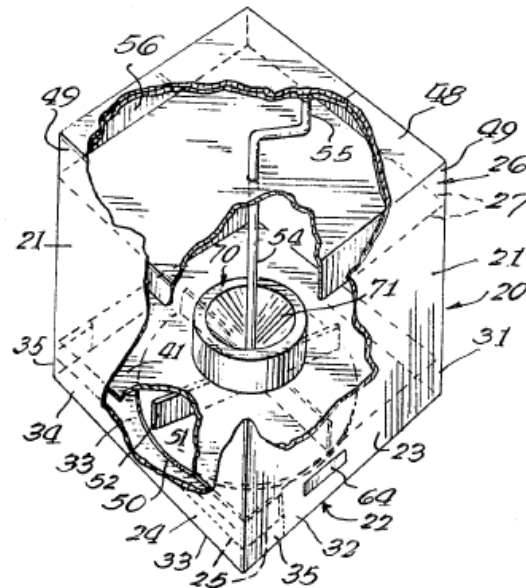
Primary Examiner—Richard A. Schacher
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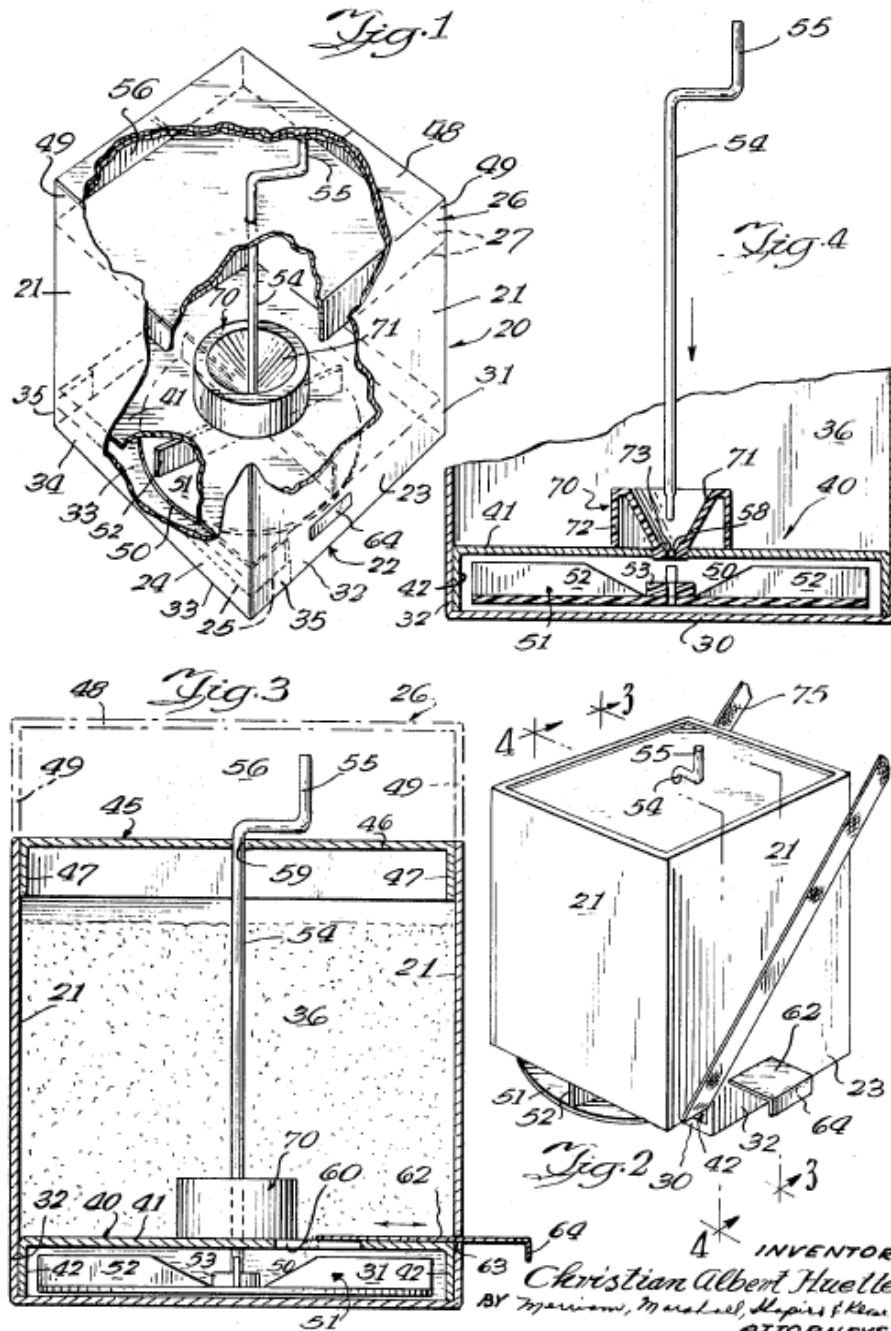
[54] COMBINATION CONTAINER AND SPREADER PACKAGE FOR PARTICULATE MATERIAL 14 Claims, 11 Drawing Figs.

[52] U.S. Cl.....	222/410, 222/239, 239/686
[51] Int. Cl.....	G01f 11/20
[50] Field of Search.....	222/410, 239; 239/686, 309

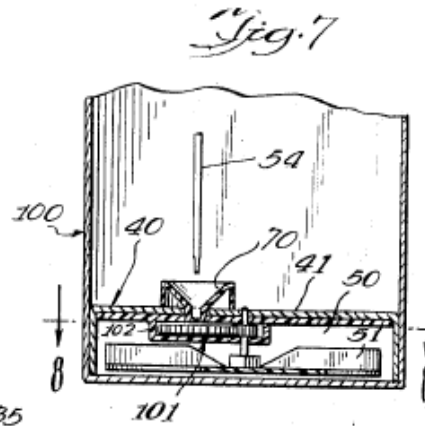
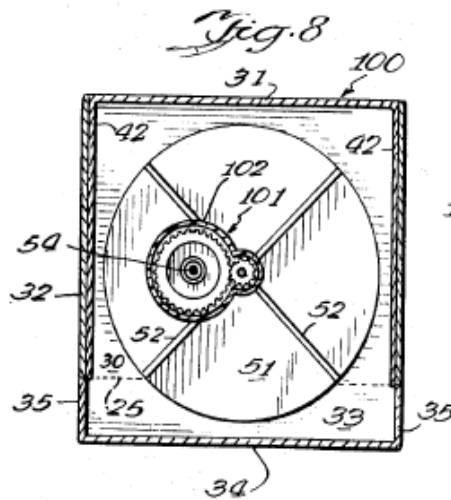
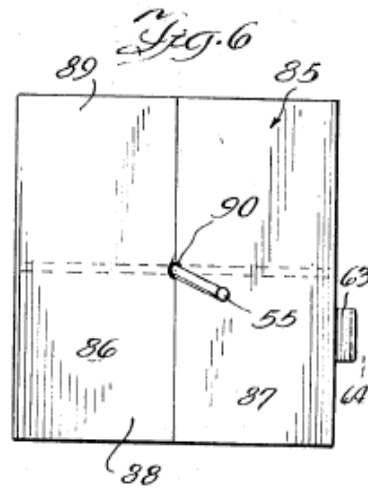
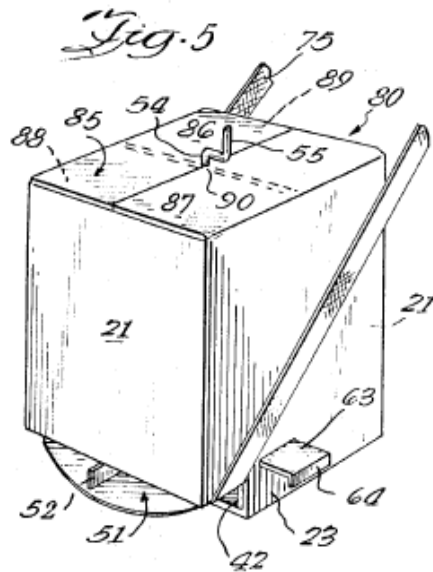
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ABSTRACT: A unit package including a shipping, display and storage container for particulate material, and one or more enclosed housings, at one or both vertical ends of the package, containing the components of a mechanical spreader. Each housing includes a removable portion detachable to expose the spreader elements and provide access thereto. Detachment of the removable portion from the lower housing exposes an opening through which particulate material may be expelled from the lower housing by the spreader element. In use, the package is carried by a strap slung around the neck of a person who manually operates the mechanical spreader.





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Fig. 9

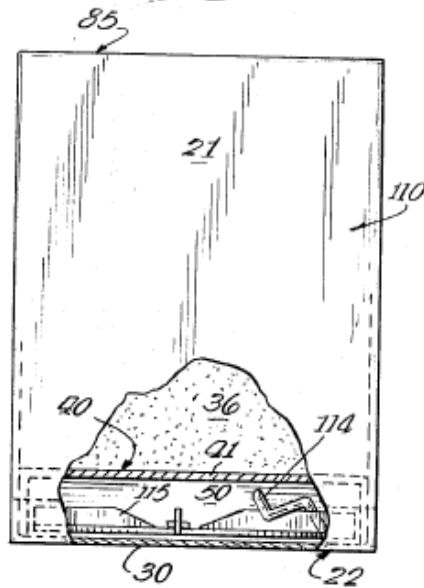


Fig. 10

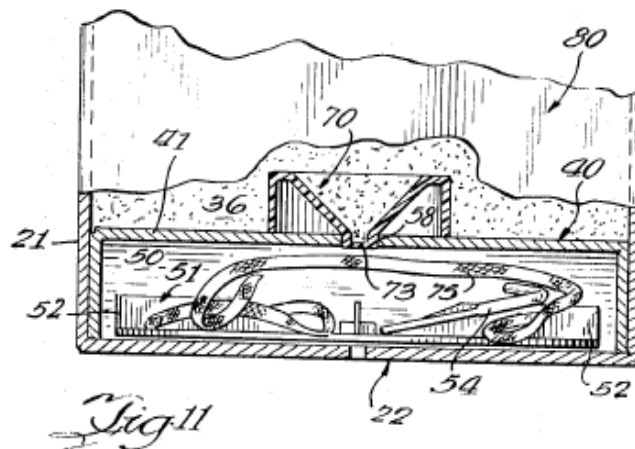
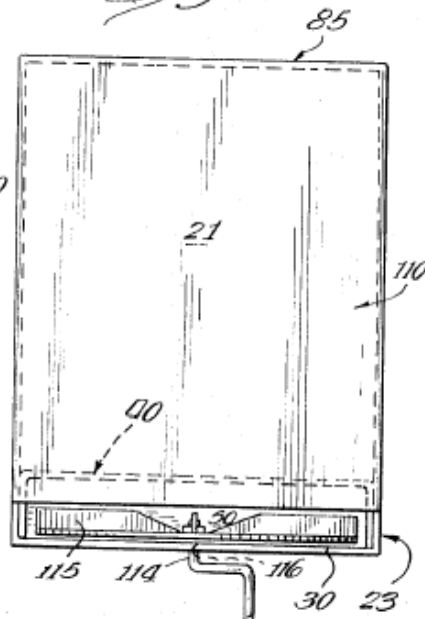


Fig. 11

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COMBINATION CONTAINER AND SPREADER PACKAGE FOR PARTICULATE MATERIAL

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to manually operated spreaders for particulate material such as fertilizer or grass seed.

Conventionally, this kind of particulate material has been distributed on a surface, such as a lawn, using wheeled, hopper-type spreaders. These spreaders are relatively expensive, are heavy and bulky and thus difficult to transport between sites, and require frequent and meticulous cleaning.

The particulate material for use with these conventional spreaders must be purchased separately, in a discrete container from which a portion of the particulate material must be manually transferred to the spreader.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The drawbacks described above, inherent in conventional spreaders, are eliminated with a combination container and spreader package in accordance with the present invention.

A user buys one package comprising both a container and a spreader for the particulate material which is already inside the package and does not require manual transfer from container to spreader. As purchased, the package resembles a closed box; and this is the condition in which the package was shipped and displayed. To use, one or more removable portions are detached from the package exposing, at the bottom of the package, a rotatable spreader element and an opening through which particulate material is expelled by the spreader element. The spreader element is rotated by a rod and handle enclosed within the package and exposed upon detachment of one of the removable package portions.

The package is relatively light. It can be handily carried by a person for spreading the material, and the combination container and spreader is readily portable between sites.

Preferably, the package is composed of relatively inexpensive material such as corrugated paper, rendering the package disposable when all the particulate material has been spread. Cleaning and maintenance are eliminated. The disposable combination container and spreader package, with material to be spread, costs only a relatively insubstantial amount more than a conventional package containing the same amount of material.

Other features and advantages are inherent in the structure claimed and disclosed or will become apparent to those skilled in the art from the following detailed description and accompanying drawing.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

FIG. 1 is a perspective view, partially cut away, showing an embodiment of a combination container and spreader package constructed in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the embodiment of FIG. 1 illustrating the combination container and spreader as it appears when in operation;

FIG. 3 is a sectional view taken along line 3-3 in FIG. 2;

FIG. 4 is a sectional view taken along line 4-4 in FIG. 2 and illustrating a step in the assembly of the combination container and spreader;

FIG. 5 is a perspective view, similar to FIG. 2, and illustrating another embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 6 is a plan view of the embodiment of FIG. 5;

FIG. 7 is a fragmentary vertical sectional view illustrating a further embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 8 is a sectional view taken along line 8-8 in FIG. 7;

FIG. 9 is a front view, partially cut away and partially in section, of still another embodiment of the invention with the combination container and spreader package shown as it appears when purchased;

FIG. 10 is a front view of the embodiment of FIG. 9 with the combination container and spreader assembled in an operative condition; and

FIG. 11 is a fragmentary vertical sectional view of the embodiment of FIG. 5.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring initially to FIGS. 1-4, there is indicated generally at 20 in FIG. 1 an embodiment of a combination container and spreader package for particulate material constructed in accordance with the present invention. Package 20 comprises wall means 21 connected to a bottom portion 22 having an irremovable part 23 integral with wall means 21 and a removable part 24 detachably connected by scored lines 25 to irremovable bottom part 23 and to wall means 21. Located above wall means 21 and detachably connected thereto by scored line 27 is a removable upper portion 26.

Irremovable bottom part 23 includes a floor 30, a backwall 31, and a pair of sidewalls 32, 32. Removable bottom part 24 includes floor 33, a front wall 34 and a pair of sidewalls 35, 35.

Located above the floor of bottom portion 22 and within wall means 21 is lower bulkhead means 40 having a deck 41 and a pair of supporting portions 42, 42 each depending from a respective opposite edge of deck 41 and resting on the floor 30 of irremovable bottom part 23. Depending bulkhead portions 42 are substantially coextensive with floor 30 of irremovable bottom part 23 and terminate at floor 33 of the removable bottom part.

Located above lower bulkhead means 40 is cover means 45 comprising a lid portion 46 and a plurality of depending portions 47, 47 each extending downwardly from lid portion 46 and comprising means engaging an inner surface of wall means 21 to maintain lid portion 46 in a relatively fixed position above lower bulkhead means 40.

Lower bulkhead means 40 and wall means 21 define a container for holding particulate material 36.

Package bottom portion 22 and lower bulkhead means 40 define a lower package space 50 for housing a spreader element 51 having a plurality of vanes 52 and a hub 53 for receiving the lower end of a vertical rod 54 having an upper end extending through lid portion 46 of cover means 45 and terminating at a handle 55 located in an upper space 56 defined by removable upper package portion 26 and lid portion 46.

Rod 54 is mounted for rotation in lower bearing means located at 58 on deck 41 and in upper bearing means located at 59 on lid portion 46.

Deck 41 has an opening 60 for releasing particulate material 36 from the container into lower space 50. Opening 60 is normally closed by a closure member 62 located atop deck 41 and mounted for slidable movement through a slit 63 in wall means 21. Located outside of wall means 21 is a closure member handle 64 which may be grasped to slide closure member 62 between open and closed positions.

Assembly of package 20 starts with an open box defined by bottom portion 22, wall means 21 and upper portion 26, all attached together, with the top 48 of upper portion 26 composed of four conventional flaps, all opened. Spreader element 51 is placed on the floor of bottom portion 22, and lower bulkhead means 40 is then assembled in place with depending portions 42 resting on floor 30 of irremovable bottom part 24. A strap 75, the purpose of which will be explained subsequently, may be placed in lower space 50 before lower bulkhead means 40 is assembled in place.

Closure member 62 is inserted through slot 63 to cover opening 60 in deck 41 after lower bulkhead means 40 is assembled in place.

The container, defined by bulkhead deck 41 and wall means 21, is then filled with particulate material 36 to a desired height below the bottom of removable upper portion 26. Cover means 45 is then assembled in place, as shown in FIG. 3. Next, rod 54 is inserted through the opening of bearing

means 59 in lid portion 46 of the cover means, and the rod is pushed downwardly into particulate material 36. Rod 54 is guided toward lower bearing means 58 in deck 41 by guide means 70 mounted on deck 41 and preassembled as part of lower bulkhead means 40 before the latter is placed in the package.

Guide means 70 includes a funnel-shaped portion 71 and a peripheral support portion 72. Located at the bottom of funnel-shaped portion 71 is bearing means 58 which is sealed by a puncturable film 73.

As downwardly urged rod 54 is guided by the funnel-shaped portion 71 of guide means 70 toward lower bearing means 58, downward movement of rod 54 is stopped when the bottom of the rod strikes film 73 in bearing means 58. When this occurs, the handle of rod 55 is located in upper space 56 defined by lid portion 46 of cover means 45 and by removable upper package portion 26. Top 48 of upper portion 26 is then closed by folding the four flaps thereof into a closed position, in a conventional manner, and sealing the flaps shut. In this condition the package may be shipped and displayed.

When a consumer is ready to use the package, he detaches removable upper portion 26 by tearing along scored lines 27 and detaches the removable part 24 of bottom portion 22 by tearing along scored lines 25.

Detachment of upper portion 26 exposes rod handle 55 and detachment of removable bottom part 24 exposes spreader element 51. The lower part of rod 54 can be positioned for engagement with hub 53 of spreader element 51 by hitting downwardly on rod handle 55 causing the rod to puncture film 73 in bearing means 58 and to move downwardly through bearing means 58 into lower space 50. Spreader element hub 53 can be readily manually aligned with the lower part of rod 54 because both are now visible and accessible in lower space 50.

Strap 75 is removed from lower space 50 and placed around the package as illustrated in FIG. 2 and then slung around the neck of a person who, in this manner, carries the package in front of him as he walks across the surface on which the particulate material is to be spread.

To spread particulate material 36, closure member 62 is opened by pulling handle 64 outwardly a desired amount. The size of the opening resulting from pulling outwardly on handle 64 controls the rate at which particulate material 36 descends from the container located above lower bulkhead means 40 into lower space 50.

Removable bottom part 24, upon detachment from the package, exposes an opening in lower housing 50. Material is spread by turning handle 55 which rotates spreader element 51 which expels material from lower space 50. Irremovable bottom part 23 comprises means for confining the expulsion of particulate material from lower space 50 to the opening exposed by detachment of the removable part. This protects the person who is carrying the package from having material projected against him as he walks and spreads the material.

FIGS. 5, 6 and 11 illustrate a second embodiment 80 of a package in accordance with the present invention.

Embodiment 80 differs from embodiment 20 illustrated in FIGS. 1-4 in that embodiment 80 does not have a removable upper portion and comprises cover means 85 integral with wall means 21. Cover means 85 comprises four foldable flaps 86-89 which can be closed, in a conventional manner, after package 80 has been filled with particulate material, to seal the package.

Embodiment 80 also differs from embodiment 20 in that not only spreader element 51 and strap 75, but also rod 54 is stored in lower space 50 (FIG. 11).

When package 80 is initially assembled, spreader element 51, rod 54 and strap 75 are placed on the floor of the package, and lower bulkhead means 40 is assembled in place above the rod, spreader element and strap. Then particulate material 36 is introduced into the container to the desired level following which the flaps of cover means 85 are closed and sealed.

Rod 54 has a length greater than the axial distance between upper bearing means 90 on cover means 85 and lower bearing means 58; and lower space 50 has dimensions sufficient to house a rod of this length.

When a consumer desires to use the package, he detaches the removable bottom part, thus providing access to rod 54, strap 75 and spreader element 51 in lower space 50. The strap and rod are removed, and rod 54 is pushed through the intersection of the four flaps 84-89 of cover means 85. Located at this intersection is upper bearing means 90 for rod 54. Rod 54 is pushed downwardly until it engages guide means 70 (FIG. 11) which directs rod 54 to lower bearing means 58 at the bottom of the guide means. Rod 54 is then pushed through the puncturable film 73 which seals the opening in lower bearing means 58. Thereafter, the bottom of rod 54 is engaged with the hub of spreader element 51 in the same manner as in embodiment 20 of FIGS. 1-4.

In a third embodiment 100, illustrated in FIGS. 7 and 8, spreader element 51 is connected to a gear reducer 101 mounted on a frame 102 attached to lower bulkhead means 40. In this embodiment, rod 54 may either be stored in lower space 50 or it may be preassembled through the top of the package, as in the manner of embodiment 20 in FIGS. 1-4. Either way, rod 54 is directed by guide means 70 into engagement with gear reducer 101 rather than into position for engagement with the hub of spreader element 51, as in the first two embodiments 20, 80.

Except for the differences described in the preceding paragraph, embodiment 100 may be the same as either embodiment 20 of FIGS. 1-4 or embodiment 80 of FIGS. 5, 6 and 11.

Embodiment 110, illustrated in FIGS. 9 and 10, utilizes a relatively short rod 114 having a length substantially less than the vertical dimension of wall means 21. Rod 114 is stored in lower space 50 and is removable therefrom upon detachment of the removable part of the bottom portion. Rod 114 is engaged with the hub of a spreader element 115 by pushing rod 114 through a prepunched or puncturable opening 116 in floor 30 of irremovable bottom part 23.

Embodiment 110 includes cover means 85 integral with wall means 21, just as in embodiment 80 of FIGS. 5, 6 and 11.

Advantages of embodiment 110 include elimination of guide means 70 on the lower bulkhead means and an upper cover means 85 which is never opened or punctured. Assembly of rod 114 and spreader element 115 is easier than in other embodiments because there is no requirement for blind guiding of the rod before it enters lower space 50, as is necessary when the rod enters the lower space from above.

For the most part, the package is preferably composed of inexpensive material such as corrugated paper, with guide means 70 being plastic and the rods being steel. This makes the package conveniently and acceptably disposable after all the particulate material has been spread.

What I claim is:

1. A combination container and spreader package for particulate material, said combination comprising:

wall means;
a bottom portion including a floor and having a first part irremovably attached to said wall means and a stationary second part removably attached to said first part and to said wall means to provide an opening in said bottom portion when the stationary second part is removed;
and bulkhead means located above the floor of said bottom portion and within said wall means;
said bulkhead means and said wall means defining a container for holding said particulate material;
said bulkhead means and said bottom portion defining an enclosed lower space for housing a spreader element.

2. A combination as recited in claim 1 wherein said bulkhead means comprises:

a deck portion;
and means for supporting said deck portion on the floor of the irremovable part of said bottom portion of the package.

3. A combination as recited in claim 1 and comprising:
cover means located above said bulkhead means and comprising a container lid.
4. A combination as recited in claim 3 and comprising:
first bearing means, on said cover means, for rotatably mounting a vertically disposed rod;
and second bearing means, on said bulkhead means and axially aligned with said first bearing means, for rotatably mounting said rod.
5. A combination as recited in claim 4 and comprising:
guide means having walls diverging upwardly from said bulkhead means for directing a downwardly moving rod toward said second bearing means.
6. A combination as recited in claim 5 and comprising puncturable means on the second bearing means for sealing the opening in said second bearing means.
7. A combination as recited in claim 4 and comprising:
an upper portion, for said package, removably attached to said wall means and having a package top located above said cover means;
a vertically extending rod rotatably mounted in said first and second bearing means;
a handle on said rod;
said handle being located above said cover means;
said removable upper portion of said package and said cover means defining an enclosed upper space for housing said handle.
8. A combination as recited in claim 4 wherein:
said lower space includes room for housing a rod having a length greater than the axial distance between said first and second bearing means.
9. A combination as recited in claim 3 wherein said cover means comprises:
a lid portion;
and means depending from said lid portion for engaging an inner surface of said wall means to maintain said lid portion in a relatively fixed position above the bulkhead means.
10. A combination as recited in claim 1 and comprising:
an opening, in said bulkhead means, for releasing particulate material into said lower space;

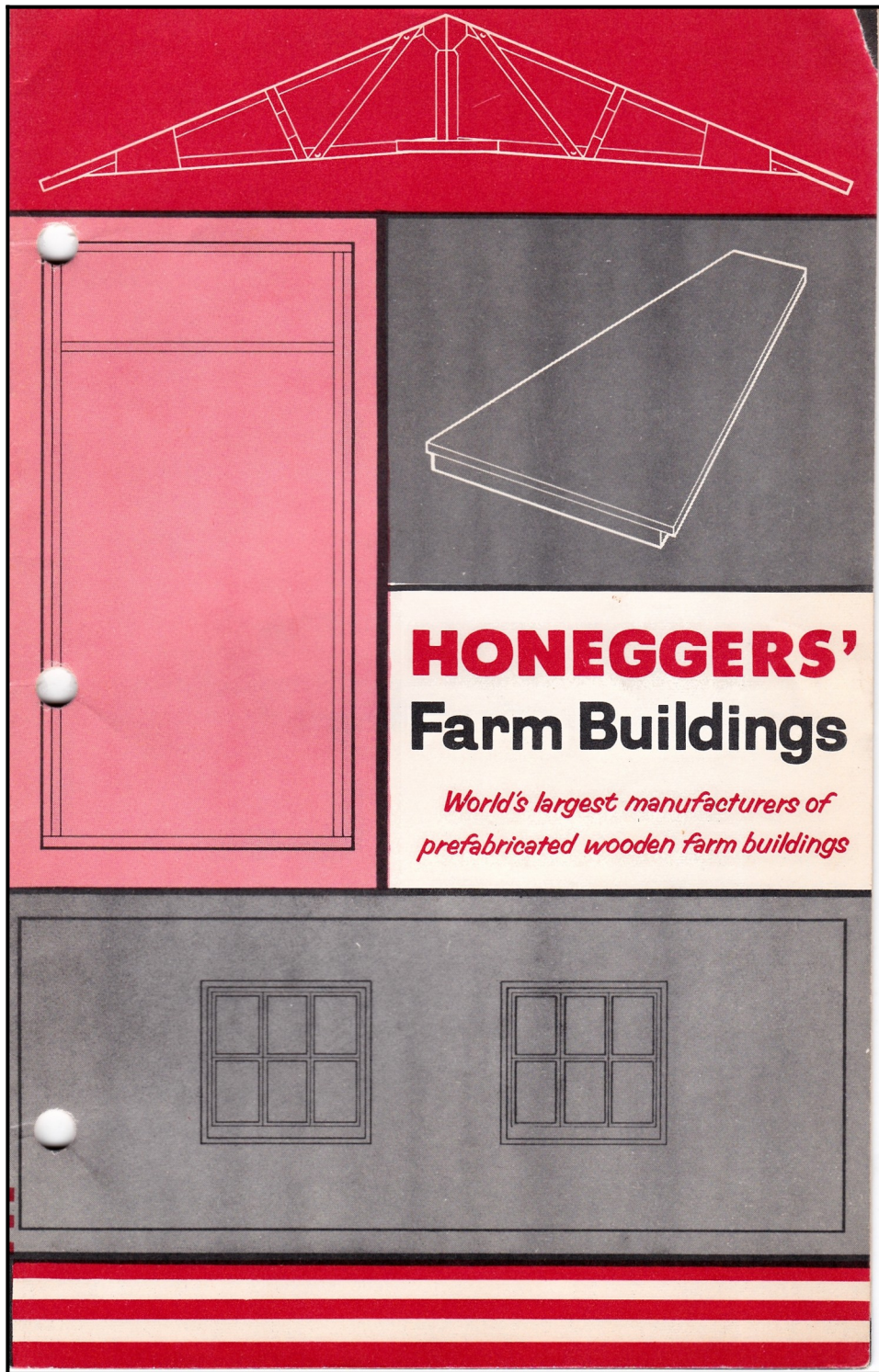
- a closure member for said opening;
means, including a slit in said wall means, mounting said closure member for slidable movement relative to said opening independent of movement by the spreader element;
and a handle connected to said closure member and located outside said wall means.
11. A combination as recited in claim 1 wherein said package comprises:
means operable to permit passage of particulate material from said container to said lower housing;
said removable part of the bottom portion exposing an opening in said lower housing upon detachment from the package;
said irremovable part of the bottom portion comprising means for confining the expulsion of particulate material from said housing to the opening exposed by detachment of the removable part.
12. A combination as recited in claim 11 wherein:
said irremovable part of the bottom portion comprises a pair of sidewalls and a backwall integral with the wall means of the package and a floor integral with said sidewalls and backwall;
and said removable part of the bottom portion comprises a floor, a pair of sidewalls and a front wall connected to said irremovable bottom portion and to said wall means along scored lines.
13. A combination as recited in claim 1 and comprising:
an upper portion, for said package, removably attached to said wall means along scored lines to facilitate removal by tearing;
the removable part of said bottom portion of the package being attached to said wall means and to said irremovable part along scored lines to facilitate removal by tearing.
14. A combination as recited in claim 1 and comprising:
rod means for engaging said spreader element through an opening in the floor of said irremovable part of the bottom portion;
said rod means having a length substantially less than the vertical dimension of said wall means.

Chapter 18

Building Products Catalog

Honeggers' & Co. Inc. expanded their product offerings from chickens and feed into buildings for their farmer customers. Now a farmer could buy a chicken house from Honeggers', stock it with chickens purchased from Honeggers', and then feed the chickens with Honeggers' feed. These buildings were pre-fabricated at a facility owned by Honeggers' & Co.

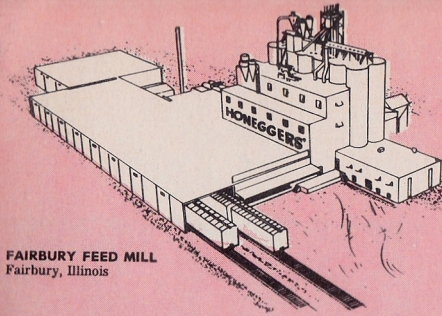
The following catalog illustrates the wide selection of buildings that Honeggers' offered their farmer customers. The catalog is undated, but it is believed to be circa 1950.



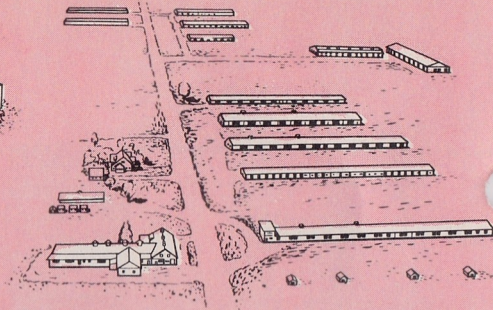
HONEGGER'S' **Farm Buildings**

*World's largest manufacturers of
prefabricated wooden farm buildings*

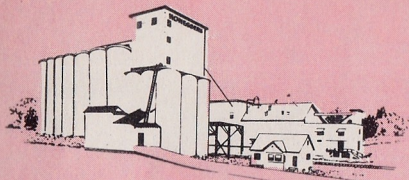
7 MODERN PLANTS



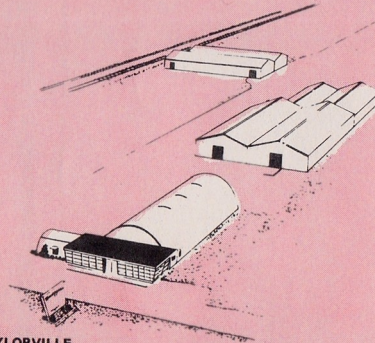
FAIRBURY FEED MILL
Fairbury, Illinois



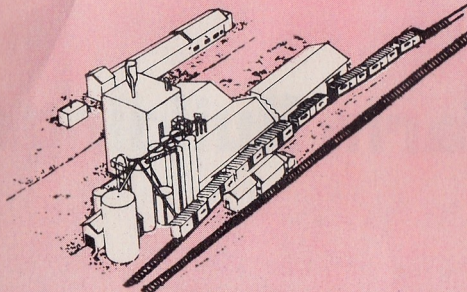
HONEGGER BREEDER HATCHERY
Breeder Farm Forrest, Illinois



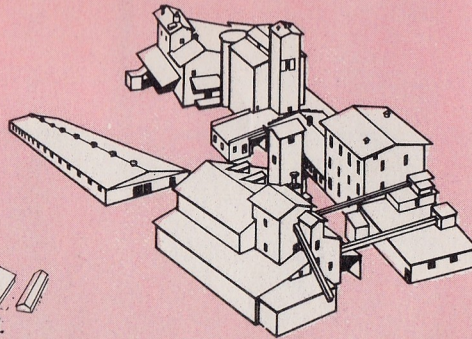
LINCOLN FEED MILL
Lincoln, Nebraska



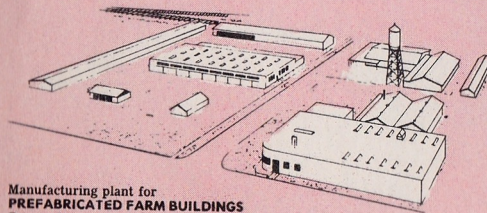
TAYLORVILLE EQUIPMENT PLANT
Taylorville, Illinois



INDIANOLA FEED MILL
Indianola, Iowa



MAYFIELD MILLING COMPANY
Mayfield, Kentucky



Manufacturing plant for
PREFABRICATED FARM BUILDINGS
Onawa, Iowa

Honeggers' seven modern plants and production facilities are conveniently located throughout the heart of the richest agricultural section of the world. They are geared to produce quality products and to do it efficiently.

HONEGGER'S

WORLD'S LARGEST MANUFACTURERS OF
PREFABRICATED WOODEN FARM BUILDINGS

Honegger Farm Buildings are pre-built according to structurally sound architectural specifications on a high volume basis which gives you the best possible building at the lowest possible cost. Modern factory machines and assembly-line production techniques provide quality features with economical construction (panel-ized) which is impossible to achieve any other way.

Honegger Farm Buildings are scientifically designed to do the job for which they are intended. Skilled architectural engineers have applied simplicity of design to practical farm building problems, based upon the experience gained by the Honegger Company in the operation of their 600 acre practical test farm and in their 31 years of working with thousands of farm customers throughout the United States.

Honegger Farm Buildings are built to give you years of low maintenance service. This is accomplished by using the highest quality material, skilled workmanship and more-than-adequate structural strength — greater than found in most conventional buildings. Yet, remember, they cost you less than commonly designed and locally built buildings.

Look at these advantages!

VOLUME BUYING . . .

substantial savings of 25% or more of the cost of conventional buildings of equivalent types.

LOWER ERECTION COSTS

. . . panel-ized features mean quick, low-cost erection and precision construction.

KILN-DRIED LUMBER

. . . when driven into forms it won't shrink.

EXTRA STRENGTH FLOORING

. . . 4 inch tongue-and-groove over 2" x 4" joists.

TONGUE-AND-GROOVE

CONSTRUCTION . . . fir flooring ends and sides gives solid, tight wind-proof protection.

LONG-LIFE SKIDS . . . creosoted

full length—furnished with all buildings purchased with flooring.

ALL HARDWARE

FURNISHED

. . . no extras to buy.

TOP QUALITY PAINT

QUICKLY SET UP . . .

complete easy-to-follow instructions.

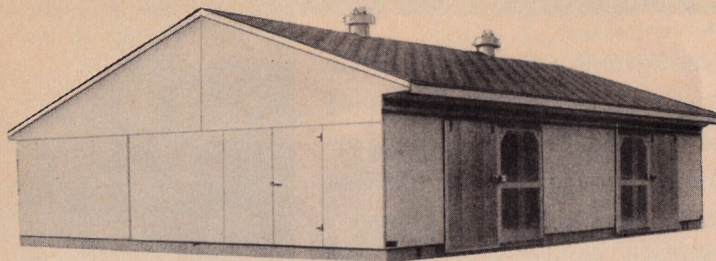
PANEL-IZED . . . low-cost

erection with precision construction.

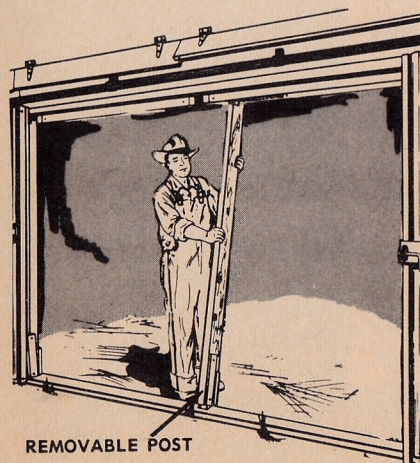
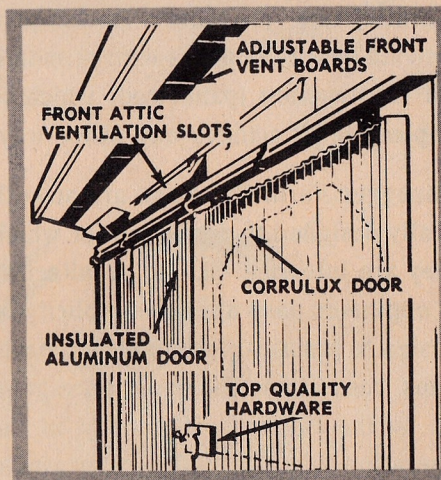
TRUSS RAFTER CONSTRUCTION

. . . superior for long lasting strength.

HONEGGERS' CUSTOM MODEL POULTRY HOUSE



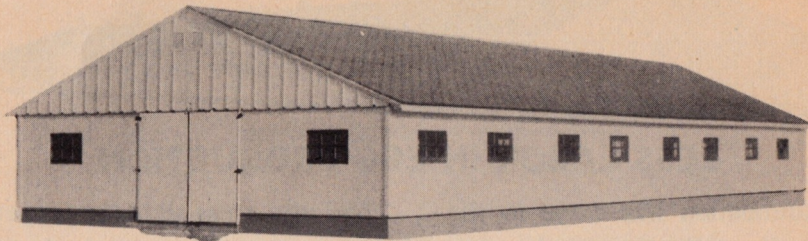
Sloping ceiling to aid ventilation
Removable post for driving in and cleaning out of building
Ventilated attic
Vent boards front and rear
Solid shiplap sheathing
Large 10-ft. wide doors
Available in sizes—28 x 30 to 28 x 300-ft. long
Cost—Prices available on request



SPECIFICATIONS

Fir Siding
Trusses and studs on 2-ft. centers
Prefabricated in 10-ft. sections
Prime coated
Openings screened
Lined ceilings
Corrulux and aluminum doors
Green lock-down shingles

HONEGGERS' STANDARD MODEL POULTRY HOUSE



LESS LABOR IN EGG PRODUCTION

Available in widths of 20, 24,
30 or 34-ft.
Lengths in multiples of 16-ft.
—32, 48, 64, etc.
Sidewall height 6-ft.
Fir siding
Trusses on 2-ft. centers
Shiplap sheathing
With or without insulation

Green Lock-down shingles
Truss rafter construction—
Post Free
Louvres in each end
Adjustable ventilating boards
extend full length of house on
both sides, GUARANTEEING
a continuous flow of air for
ventilating purposes

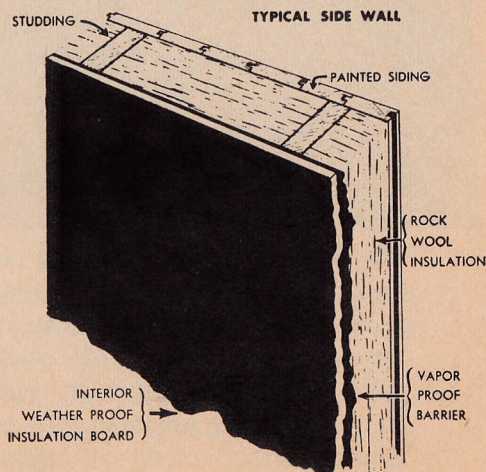
TYPICAL SIDE WALL

Recommended for Uni-
form Temperature Con-
trol

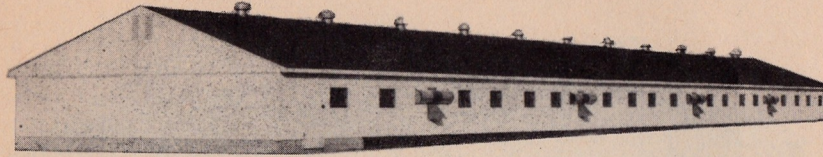
Painted siding

Rock - Wool insulation
with vapor barrier

Drawing showing side-
wall, endwall and ceiling
insulation we recommend
for all poultry houses



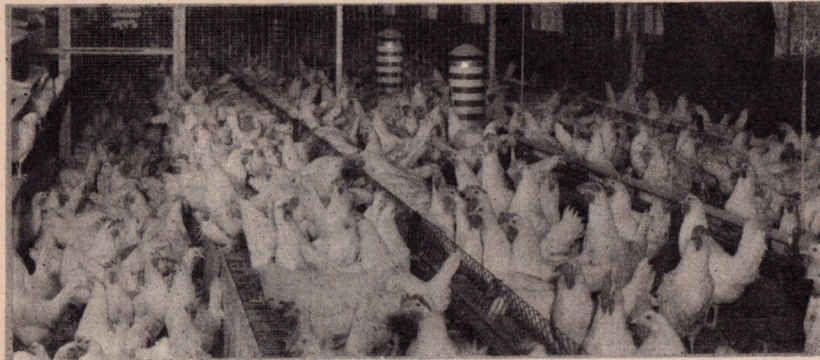
HONEGGERS' AUTOMATIC EGG FACTORY



LESS LABOR IN EGG PRODUCTION

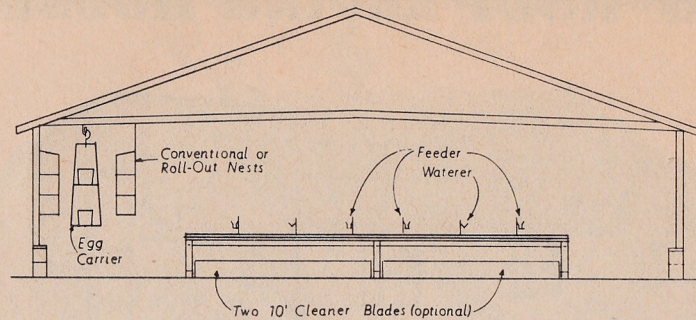
Automation has come to the poultry industry. For the commercial poultryman the above arrangement cannot be beat for labor saving and convenience. Honeggers' Automatic Egg Factory has many advantages over other mechanical houses and cage installations. The 34-ft. width keeps the feeder space, watering space

and nest areas all in the proper proportions. Carrying feed and water by hand, the most time consuming job in producing eggs, is eliminated. Gathering, cleaning and processing of eggs on the average commercial poultry farm is a high item of cost. This problem has been simplified and costs greatly reduced.

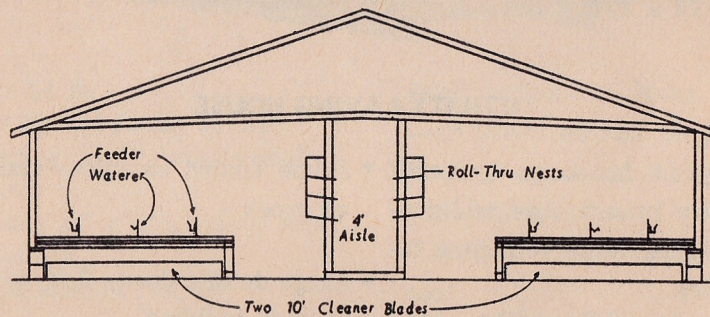


The sketches on the following page, show only a few of the many versatile arrangements possible with the 34-ft. wide Honegger Poultry House—the building designed for automation. The 34-ft. width makes possible the most efficient use of feeder, waterer and nesting space. Ample space is provided, yet no space is wasted and feed and water are always within a few feet of any bird.

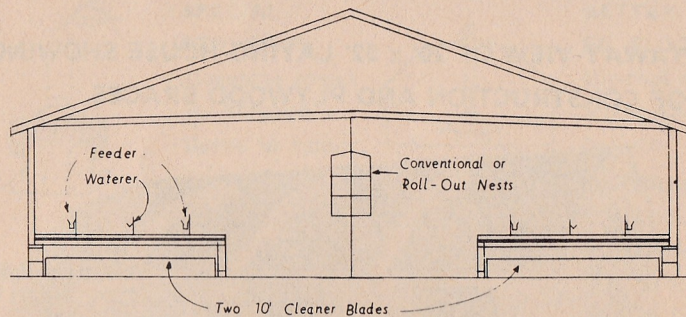
VERSATILE ARRANGEMENTS OF 34' WIDE HOUSE



No. 1 SLATTED FLOOR CENTER—NESTS ONE SIDE



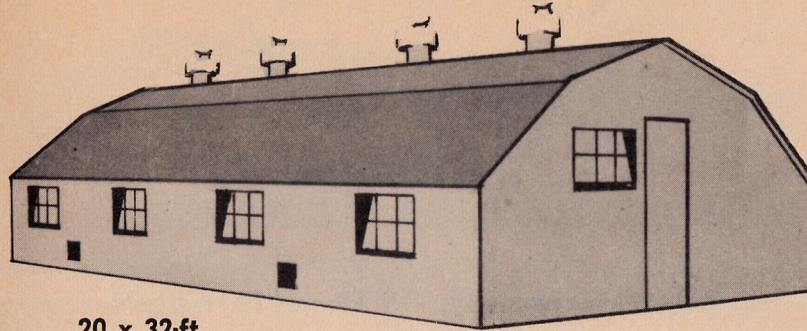
No. 2 SLATTED FLOOR OUTSIDE—LITTER INSIDE—4' CENTER AISLE



No. 3. SLATTED FLOOR OUTSIDE—LITTER IN CENTER

Plan No. 1, as far as initial investment, is the most economical. Roosts 20-ft. wide can be substituted for slat floors. All feeders and waterers are on the roosting area with over 75% of the droppings collected within the pits. The entire area of the house is utilized by the birds. Egg collection is also convenient.

HIP ROOF LAYING HOUSE

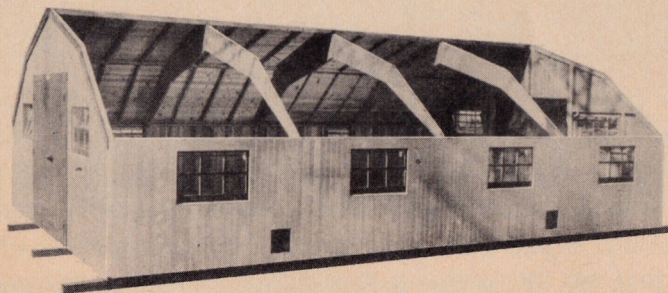


20 x 32-ft.

UTILITY LAYING HOUSE

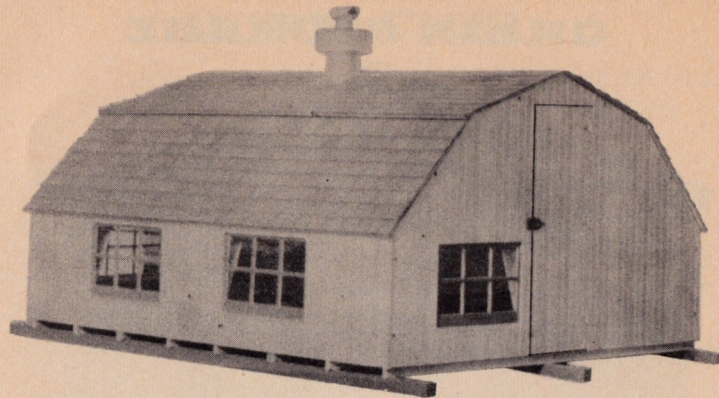
- Designed for large or small poultry raisers. Add additional 16-ft. units as your flock increases
- 16-ft. or 20-ft. widths —any length in multiples of 16-ft.
- Prime coated shingles—stained green
- Large double door—8-ft. wide in 20-ft. building
- With or without floor and skids

CUTAWAY VIEW OF 20' x 32' LAYING HOUSE SHOWING ROOF CONSTRUCTION AND PLYWOOD BRACES.



Plywood braces further reinforce the natural strong arch of construction. One brace to each 8' of lineal feet of roof space. Braces tested in State University of Iowa Materials Lab showed a strength test of 2,000 lbs. without failure.

MODEL "G" BROODER HOUSE



12 x 14 ft.

Quickly and Easily Set-up

Flooring is 1" tongue-and-groove

Rafters 2" x 6"; Siding kiln-dried Fir

Metal window frames

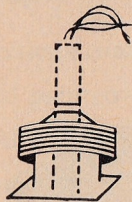
Roof section—all holes bored

—all hardware furnished

Roofing—standard weight asphalt shingles

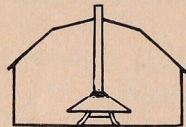
Ventilator space pre-cut in roof

HONEGGERS' ADDED ADVANTAGES



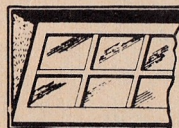
SPECIAL STOVEPIPE

Stovepipe comes out through a sleeve in center, protects against fire



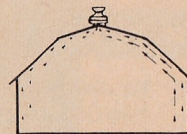
BETTER HEATED FLOORS

Hip-roof design forces heat down to floor



TOP TILTING WINDOWS

Galvanized side window wings prevent down drafts



NATURAL PLUS CONTROLLED VENTILATION

Central roof ventilation forces foul air to rise—no draft over chicks

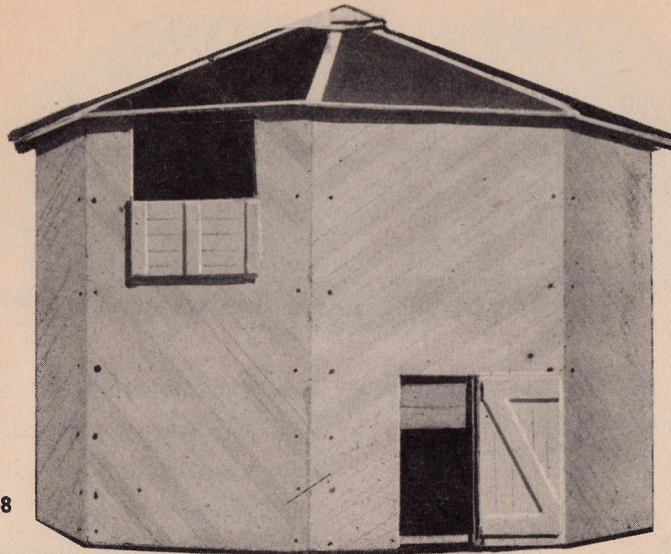
DIMENSIONS

12 x 8 Ft.
12 x 10 Ft.
12 x 12 Ft.
12 x 14 Ft.

DIMENSIONS

12 x 16 Ft.
12 x 18 Ft.
16 x 12 Ft.
16 x 16 Ft.

WOOD AND METAL GRAIN STORAGE

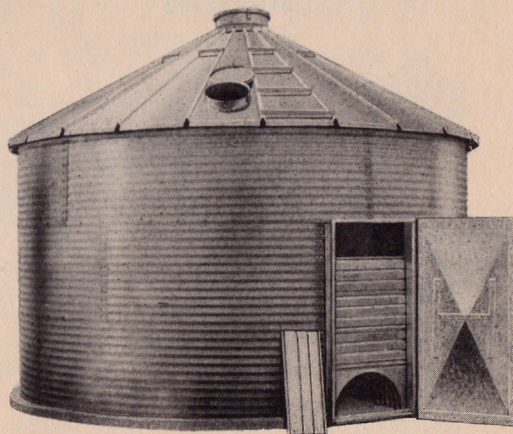


B808

Accepted Everywhere for Government Sealing No extras to buy—farm delivered including floor, sills, etc. When floor, freight and ventilators are taken into consideration, wooden cribs sell for less than wire cribs.

CORRUGATED GRAIN STORAGE

Safe—Trouble-Free
Body—strong, corrugated, galvanized steel sided
Bolted construction — easy to erect
Roof—galvanized steel with hinged manhole hatch 18' dia. only
Weather-proof
Easy to move
One piece door—welded frame construction
Bottom—galvanized steel —made to fit tight to keep moisture out

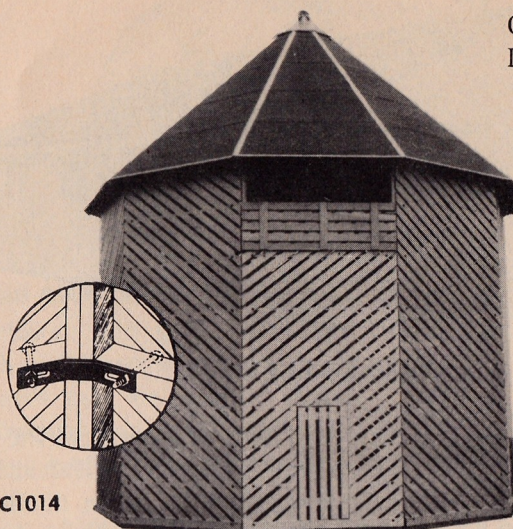


GB15-3 1125 bushel - 15 ft. 3 ring
GB15-4 1500 bushel - 15 ft. 4 ring
GB15-5 1875 bushel - 15 ft. 5 ring

GB18-4 2200 bushel - 18 ft. 4 ring
GB18-5 2750 bushel - 18 ft. 5 ring
GB18-6 3300 bushel - 18 ft. 6 ring

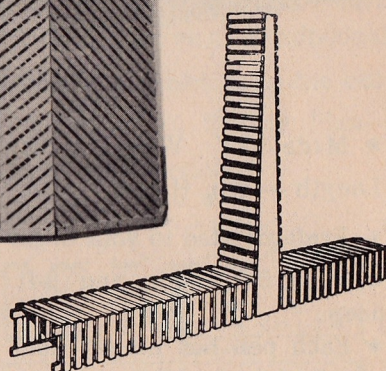
HONEGGERS' WOODEN CORN CRIB

Good Grain Quality
Less Spoilage



C1014

No Rotten Grain on Wood
Floor
Offers More Protection from
Weather



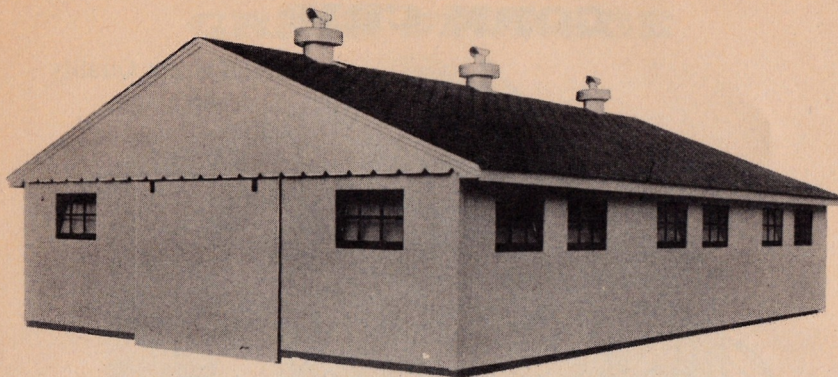
Sections completely fabricated and painted—ready to bolt together. Roll roofing applied to roof

Crib and Bin equipped with a galvanized Manhole Ventilator—2-ft. in diameter—hinged to open for elevator—Crib or Bin can be filled to the top.

S P E C I F I C A T I O N S

CORN CRIB NO.	AREA OF FLOOR	NO. OF SIDES	CAPACITY
C 812	172.8 sq. ft.	8	864 bu.
C 814	172.8 sq. ft.	10	1001 bu.
C 1012	295.5 sq. ft.	8	1573 bu.
C 1014	295.5 sq. ft.	10	1808 bu.
Grain Bin			
B 808	172.8 sq. ft.	8	1223 bu.
B 810	172.8 sq. ft.	10	1497 bu.
B 1008	295.5 sq. ft.	8	2257 bu.
B 1010	295.5 sq. ft.	10	2727 bu.

CENTRAL FARROWING HOUSE



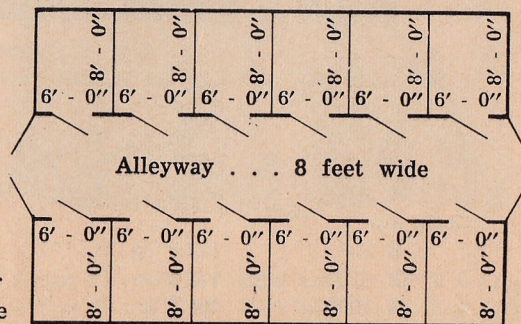
EASY-TO-CLEAN

- Made 24' Wide — Any Length — 6 ft. Height
- Tilt-in windows give the no-draft ventilation Galvanized ventilators 15 in. in diameter spaced every 12' takes out foul air without letting in rain or snow
- Prefabricated to your order
- Roof sheathed solid with kiln-dried, ship-lap cut to exact length
- Pens 6-ft. wide and 8-ft. deep
- Each pen has hinged door opening out to alleyway
- Choice of roofing—90 lb. roll roofing—Lock-down asphalt shingles — Red Cedar Shingles
- Clear Span Construction—Post Free
- Wide 8' sliding door and 8' alleyway allows plenty of room for tractor or truck

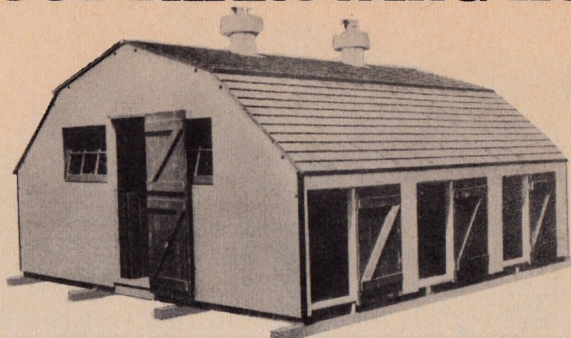
FLOOR PLAN—24' x 36' HOG HOUSE

CHECK THESE ADVANTAGES

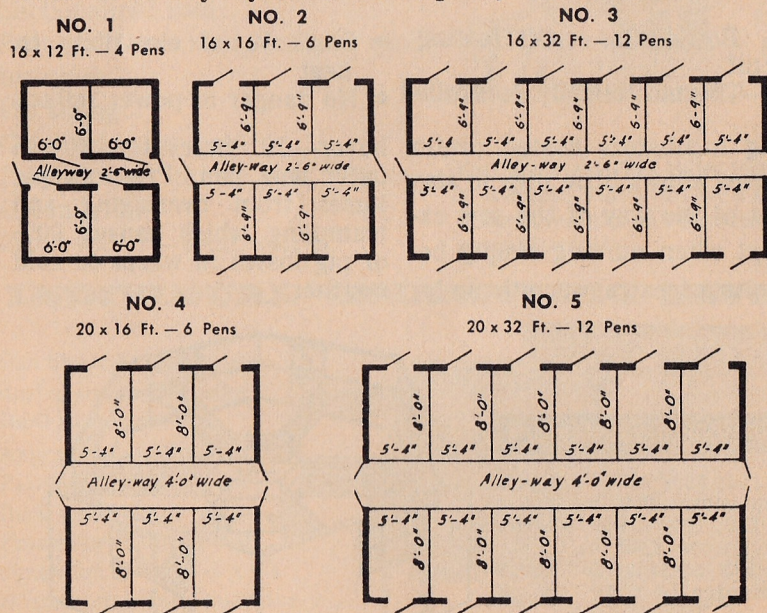
- Pre-Built in Easy-to-Erect Sections
- Delivered to Your Farm—Freight Free
- Pigs Saved Through Proper Housing Can Pay For House



HIP ROOF FARROWING HOUSE



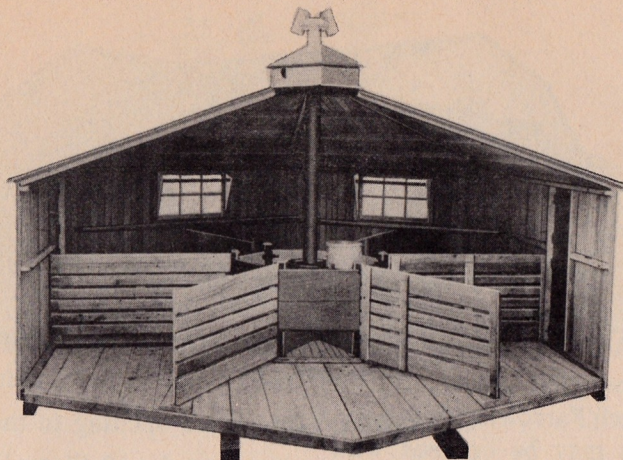
Build ANY Length—Multiples of 16-ft. With or Without Floors
 Partitions and gates included with each Farrowing house.
 Houses may be ordered with individual Pen doors, opening either into alleyways as in No. 1 Floor Plan or with individual Pen doors opening to the outside as in No. 2 Floor Plan—Specify Selection.



Partitions and Gates Included with Each House

- Delivered Complete with Pens
- Easy Step-By-Step Erection
- Delivered Freight Free

PIG INCUBATOR



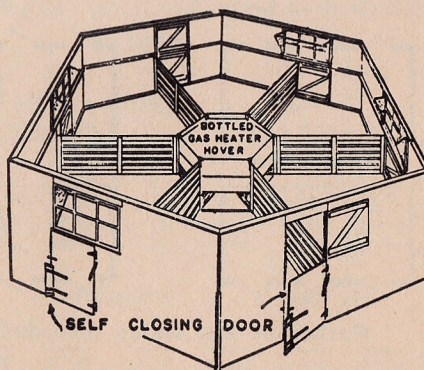
PROVEN WAY TO AVOID PIG LOSS

- Bottled Gas or Oil Heating Unit
- Thermostatically controlled
- Costs $\frac{1}{3}$ of electricity to heat
- No danger of power failure

Pig Incubators heated center hover—70° in center, 40° in outer sow pen. Prevents pig losses from overlaying and trampling which causes 90% of pig losses in warm or cold weather.

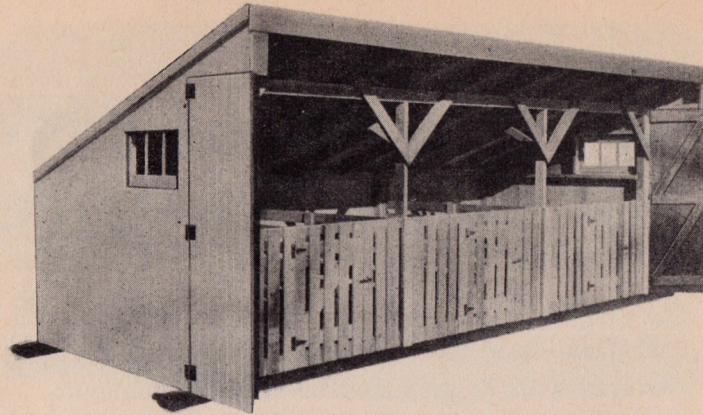
SPECIFICATIONS

No. H-1; 15'4"x17'9"—6 pens w/out stove 2950 lbs.
 No. H-2; 17'4"x19'9"—6 pens w/out stove 3299 lbs.
 No. H-2 contains 25% more floor space



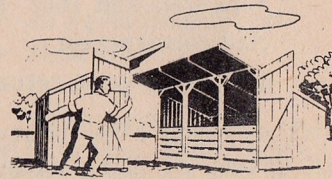
Comes complete with pens, center hover, floor and skids
 Ready-built and painted for less money than you'd pay
 for material alone.

PULL-TO-GETHER HOG HOUSES



BUILT IN TWO SECTIONS—TO FORM UNIT

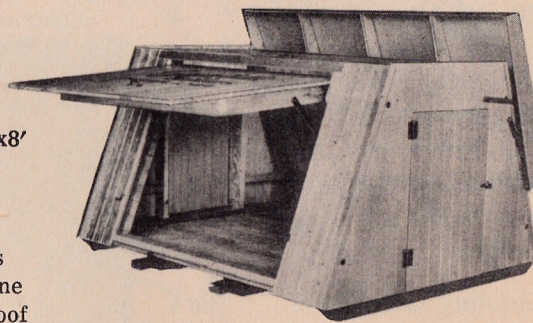
Available with or without floor.
Asphalt shingles or Roll roofing.
Sectionalized roof.
Pens and Gates ready-built for quick insertion.
Fir siding.
Gates into each pen.
Painted one prime coat. (White - Green trim)
Front wall 7'—Rear wall 4'.



Easy to move—When pulled together it enables you to care for 6 sows under cover with all advantages of central farrowing.

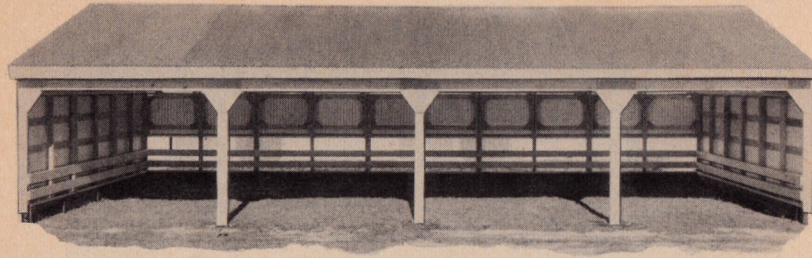
INDIVIDUAL "GOLDEN" PIG SAVER

Sun Shade for protection during summer months
Built in 2 sizes—
Approximately 6'x7' & 6'x8'
Painted—Bright Yellow—
Dark Green Roof
Framework built of full dimension lumber—2 x 4's
Hinged top admits sunshine
Homasote weatherproof roof



Four skids—the two skids with clevises attached are doubled for added strength and easy moving.
Door in each end for ventilation and easy entrance and exit for sow.

HONEGGERS' PORK FACTORY



24' Wide—Available in Multiple lengths of 16-ft.
Covered with Kaiser Diamond Ribbed Aluminum
Split ring and bolted rafter, 4' on centers
Side wall and roof purlined for standard metal
clad construction
16-ft. wide pens recommended

Here's why you save money, time, upkeep by using Kaiser Aluminum.

NON-SIPHONING— Exclusive Diamond-Rib channel collects and carries away any moisture blown under lapped sheets. No wind blown leakage.

30 YEAR WARRANTY — Kaiser Aluminum Diamond-Rib Roofing and Siding has a 30 year Warranty against corrosion for farm installations.

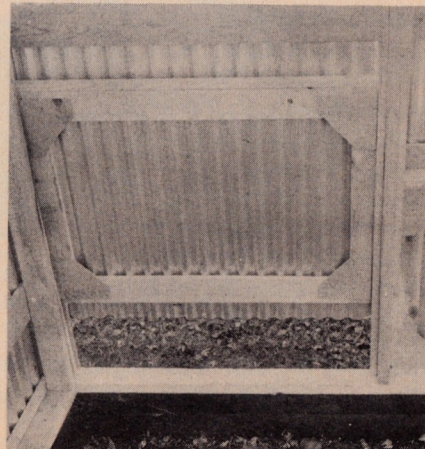
LONGER—Available in longer lengths for faster, easier applications.

Building faces south . . . Back wall is convertible . . . Sliding panels shut out wintry blasts, but can be opened in summer to provide air circulation.

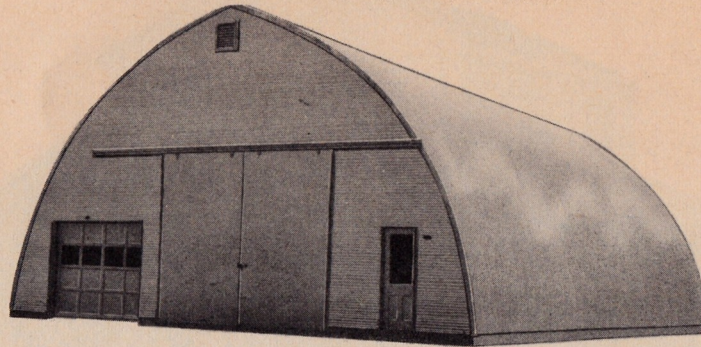
IMPROVED FASTENING —

Extra large head aluminum nails with positive sealing washers speed installation, assure tight life-of-the-building fastening.

EXTRA WIDE—Gives 48" net coverage after lapping—fewer construction costs.



HONEGGERS' ARCH BUILDINGS



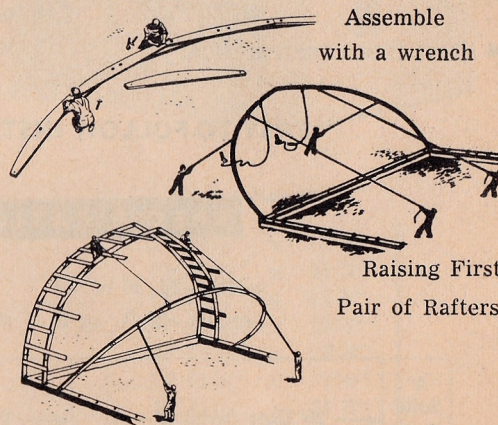
- Everything you need in ONE package
- Choice of widths—40, 50, 60-ft.
- Available in choice of lengths
- Wood or metal end optional at no additional cost
- Steel roof
- Doors prefabricated for your specific needs
- Overhead doors furnished upon request

Bolt the angle irons to sill
Place butt ends of each rafter on sill against the angle iron.

Fasten 2 guy wires or ropes to each rafter at points $\frac{1}{3}$ way down from the ridge
Just below guy wires, fasten ropes to each rafter for pulling them up

Using 2 men to lift, the pair of rafters is lifted and tilted up about shoulder height. Then the men start using a pike pole under the rafter arch to help raise the rest of the way

Two men pull on the ropes
Guy wires are made fast, holding rafters plumb
Bolt rafters to sill angle irons
Second pair of rafters is raised same as the first

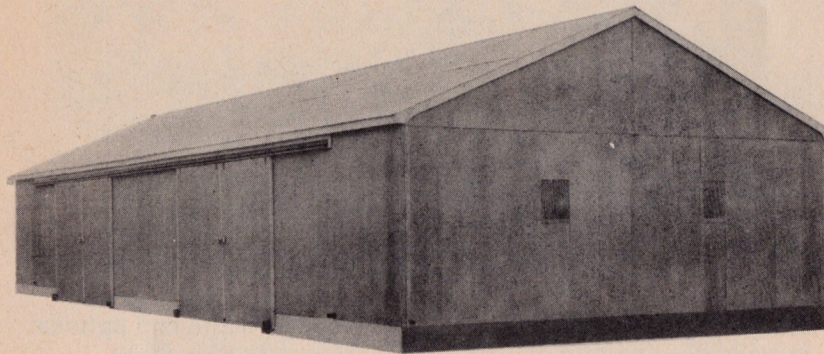


Assemble
with a wrench

Raising First
Pair of Rafters

After the first 2 or 3 arches have been raised, men can climb up near the ridge and by pulling on the raising ropes help tilt each subsequent rafter into position

HONEGGERS' MACHINE AND UTILITY SHEDS



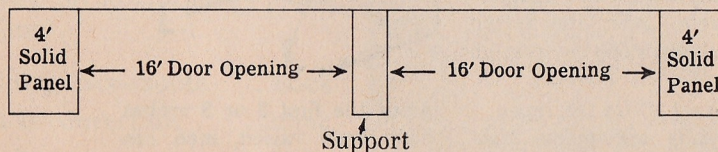
- Available any size from 24' x 32' to 40' x 104'
- Storage for your implements, tools, supplies or car
- Post free construction
- Metal installed at location
- 28 gauge metal on building
- Roof galvanized metal
- Building has either a 4' or 8' solid panel on each end of the front depending on length

EASY-TO-FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS

SPECIFICATIONS

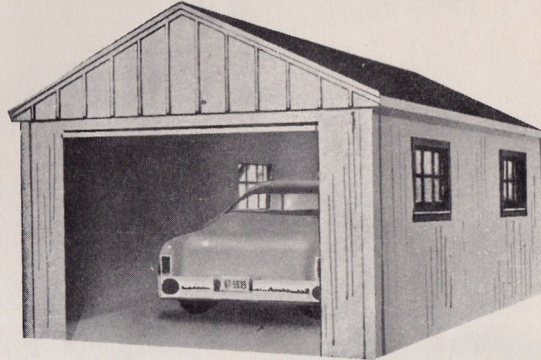
width—24, 30 or 40'

Length—32-ft. up in 8' multiples



The door plan and foundation plan on the front will vary according to the length of the building desired. All door openings will be figured on a 16' basis.

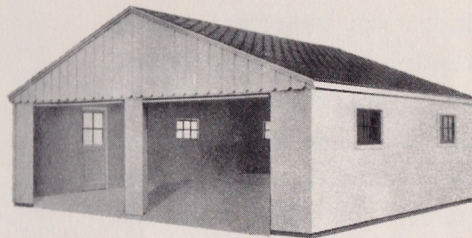
HONEGGERS' GARAGES



11 SIZES TO CHOOSE FROM

- Lengths — 20 to 28-ft.
- Three widths — 12, 16, and 24-ft.
- Extra wide 9-ft. overhead doors, already installed.
- Sides require only 18 bolts.
- Siding material is heavy clear kiln-dried Fir or Red Cedar flooring or car siding—All dimension lumber is No. 1 or better.

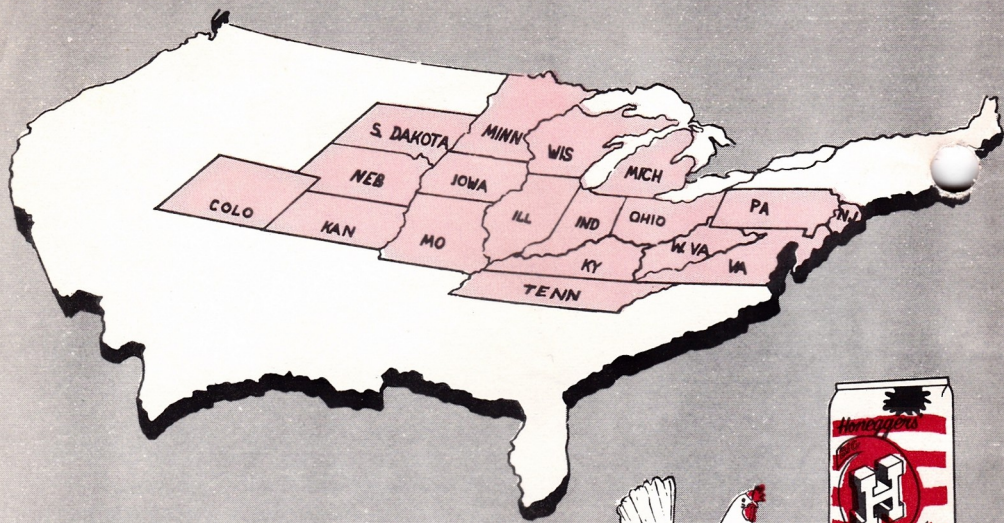
Smartly designed and Excellently Constructed. Two men can easily erect in one day.



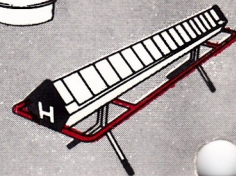
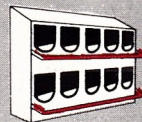
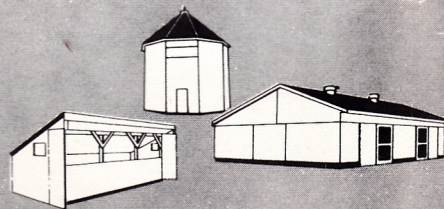
Building Size

Foundation Size

12 x 20.....	11'-11 1/2"	x	19'-9"
12 x 22.....	11'-11 1/2"	x	21'-9"
12 x 24.....	11'-11 1/2"	x	23'-9"
12 x 26.....	11'-11 1/2"	x	25'-9"
12 x 28.....	11'-11 1/2"	x	27'-9"
16 x 20.....	15'-11 1/2"	x	19'-9"
16 x 22.....	15'-11 1/2"	x	21'-9"
16 x 24.....	15'-11 1/2"	x	23'-9"
16 x 26.....	15'-11 1/2"	x	25'-9"
16 x 28.....	15'-11 1/2"	x	27'-9"
	Front		Side
24 x 24.....	23'-11 1/2"	x	23'-9"



America's most important farmer, the livestock and poultry producer, has seen the importance of changing his operation to meet the need of changing times. Honeggers' have not merely kept pace with such changes, but have pioneered many new developments that mean greater efficiency and more profits in livestock and poultry production—better farm family living for Honeggers' customers.



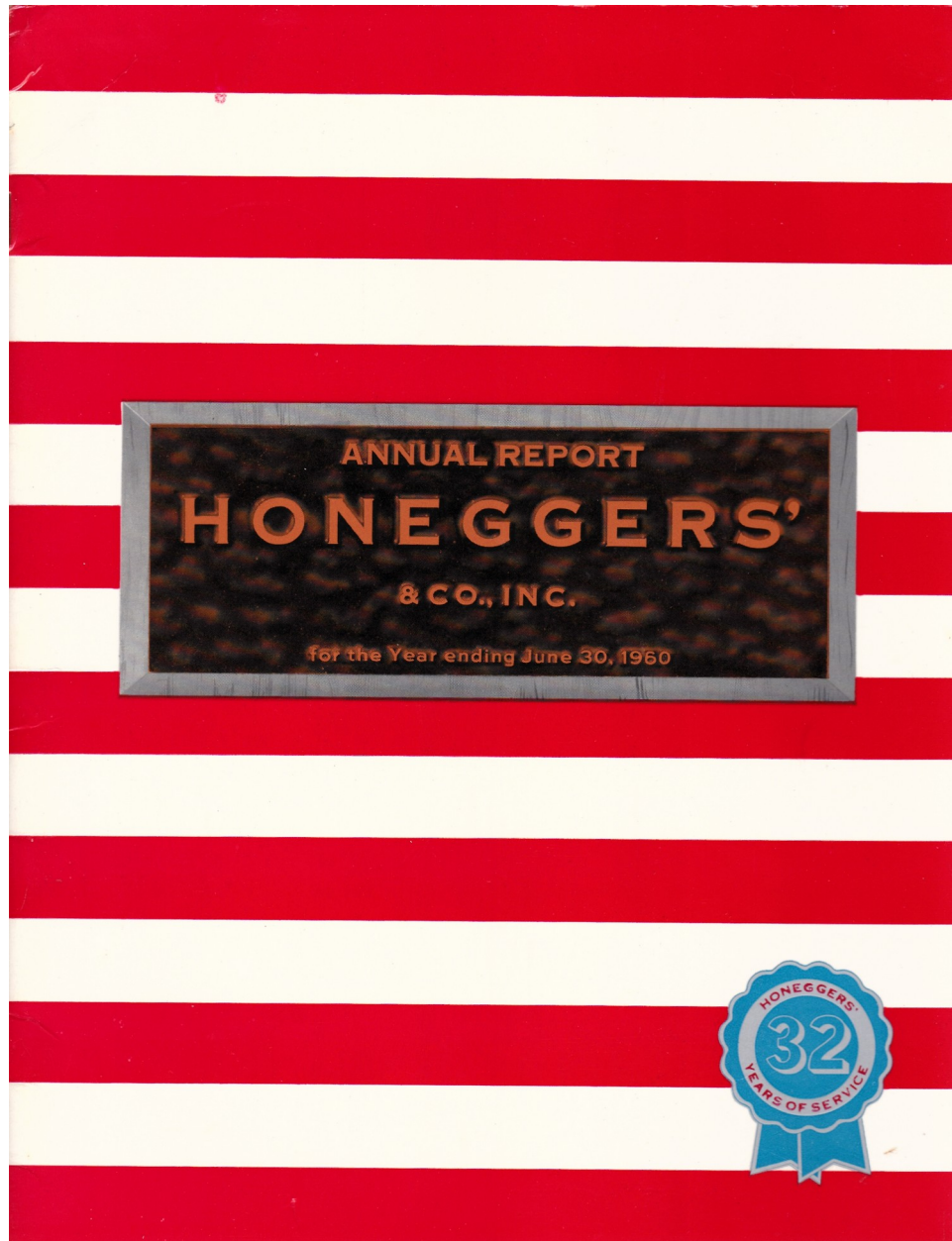
HONEGGER'S'

FEED & FARM BUILDINGS DIV. — FAIRBURY, ILLINOIS

P-591-FB1-25

Chapter 19

1960 Annual Report





SAM R. HONEGGER
CHAIRMAN,
BOARD OF DIRECTORS



FRANK E. HONEGGER
VICE-CHAIRMAN,
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CO-FOUNDERS

Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1960

Directors

SAM R. HONEGGER,
Chairman

L. C. CUNNINGHAM, PhD
Economist, Cornell University,
Ithaca, New York

SHELTON MOZLEY, Vice President
Fusz-Schmelzle & Co., Inc., St. Louis, Mo.

E. F. DICKEY,
President

FRED RIEGER, SR.
First State Bank, Forrest, Illinois

L. H. FAIRCHILD,
Vice President

WAYNE SCHROEDER, Attorney
LeForgee, Samuels, Miller, Schroeder & Jackson,
Decatur, Illinois

FRANK E. HONEGGER,
Vice Chairman of the Board

PURVIS TABOR,
President, Tabor & Co.,
Decatur, Illinois

ERWIN C. WASCHER
Vice President

Executive Committee

E. F. DICKEY, Chairman

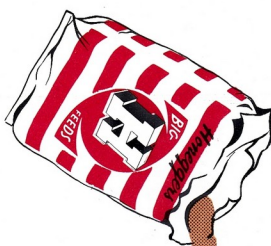
Sam R. Honegger

Frank E. Honegger

Erwin C. Wascher

Officers

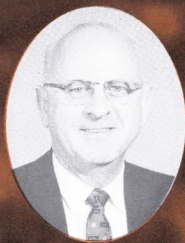
Sam R. Honegger,	Chairman of the Board
Frank E. Honegger,	Vice Chairman of the Board
E. F. Dickey,	President
Erwin C. Wascher,	Vice President - Operations
Elmer S. Roth,	Vice President - General Sales Manager
R. B. Concannon,	Vice President for Finance, Treasurer and Controller
Harvey S. Traub,	House Counsel - Secretary
Ray W. Steele,	Vice President - Indianola Operations
Fred Fountain,	Vice President - Green Gable Operations
Sam Kennedy,	Vice President
L. H. Fairchild,	Vice President



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Officers and Directors



Sam R. Honegger



Frank E. Honegger



E. F. Dickey



Erwin Wascher



L. H. Fairchild



Elmer S. Roth



Ray W. Steele



Fred Fountain



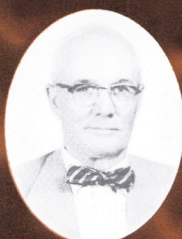
Sam Kennedy



R. B. Concannon



Harvey S. Traub



Fred Rieger, Sr.



Purvis Tabor



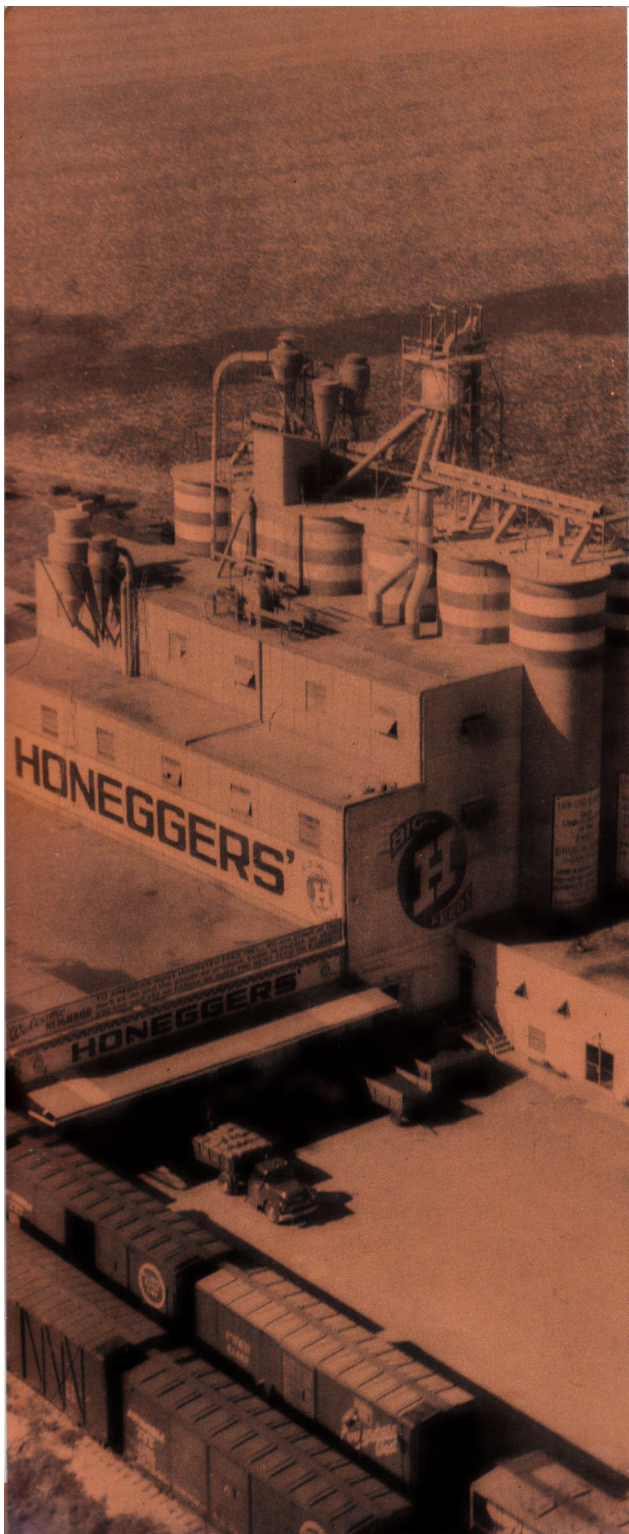
Wayne Schroeder



Shelton Mozley



L. C. Cunningham



The Year in Brief

Net Sales

Dollar volume was 10.6% over the previous 5 year total, although down 17% from last year's all time high.

Sales By Product

Unit sales were down in all product groups including feed, farm buildings, and equipment. Feed was down 13%, farm buildings 35%, and equipment 2%.

Net Earnings

Profit was only 47% of the last 5 year's average and only 37% of last year's total.

Working Capital

Working capital increased by 81%, primarily through long term financing.

Net Worth

Net worth now exceeds 3 1/2 million dollars at fiscal year end.

Total Assets

Total assets of the corporation were near \$7,000,000.00 at year end.

Current Ratio

Current ratio at year end was 2.46 : 1.

President's Report

To Our Shareholders

Generally speaking, the past year has been a very bad year for the feed industry as a whole. For us the fiscal period ending June 30, 1960 was one of adjustment and consolidation of previous gains. It also brought to completion nearly 2 million dollars of plant renovation and new construction undertaken during the past 3 years. Naturally, it is hard to show a sizable profit during such a period.

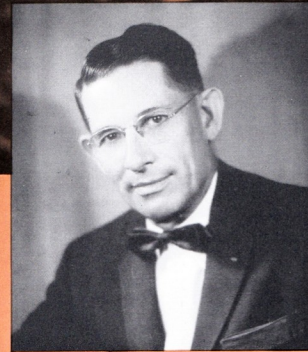
While the statistical reports for the year just ended reflect a rather gloomy picture from a strictly "short term" view point, it must be remembered that our long range operation has been one of unusual growth with substantial profit. It has been said that "all that glitters isn't gold". By that same token one bad year in a business cycle shouldn't necessarily be considered unusual, or a matter of serious consequence. In fact, we feel that our management personnel are to be complimented for the modest profit which they have made, while some of the giants in our industry were actually losing substantial sums of money in the feed business.

With an ever exploding population growth, and with our company's modern plants and well-trained personnel, we think that future prospects are very bright for our company.

Our business is affected quite substantially by price ranges, or fluctuations, in the livestock and poultry field. While agriculture in general is not faring too well in our overall economy, animal agriculture has not shared this depressed condition, except briefly during the past 18 months in the pork and egg-producing area. It was the brief period in those areas that contributed substantially to our poor showing this past year. Rapid recovery has been made in these fields with egg prices increasing gradually and pork prices now at a very satisfactory level. We expect animal agriculture to expand rapidly during the years ahead and we expect our company to get its fair share of the additional business.

While temporary slumps, or brief periods of depressed sales affect new plants, and new sales territories, in a more apparent way than they do in areas where a business is more firmly established, we do, however, consider the new operations at Indianola, Iowa, and Lincoln, Nebraska, to be progressing satisfactorily.

Progress and profit at the Taylorville plant was disrupted from a statistical reporting standpoint by our purchasing another equipment manufacturing business in October last year. This other business, Makomb Steel Products, was enjoying a profitable operation with more than twice the dollar volume of our Taylorville plant. This business was moved to our Taylorville plant and the integration problems involved resulted in a



E. F. DICKEY

further loss at that plant through March, 1960. Greatly improved conditions have been experienced during the final quarter.

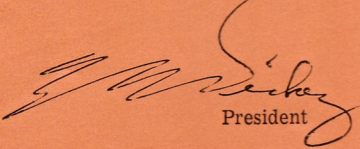
The balance sheet and the profit and loss statement alone cannot possibly reflect the substantial gains we have made. The high plateau of sales reached during the previous fiscal period allowed expenses in many areas to increase disproportionately, particularly in view of the reduced sales volume experienced in later months. However, during the past 6 months of the fiscal period just finished, our company's operating policies were reviewed from top to bottom with a view to the elimination of expense wherever possible. This action has resulted in greatly reduced operating expenses and improved profits during the last quarter.

Our Board of Directors has considered our depressed earnings to be temporary and have continued the payment of stock dividends of 1½% quarterly, amounting to 6% per annum. We do not anticipate any change in their basic policy. On page 19 we have summarized the earnings of the company for the past 10 years. We invite you to note the sound progress through the years as reflected in the summary.

The operating reports and statistical data on succeeding pages reflect the soundness of our corporate financing, the current strong financial position of our company,—and the substantial earning potential immediately ahead.

We welcome our new stockholders to our corporate family and thank them and our other stockholders for the confidence which they have placed in us. We also thank our employees and many friends for their loyal support.

We hope that our stockholders' investments will be sound and profitable, that our employees will continue to grow and prosper in their jobs, and that our company may continue to grow in its ability to serve animal agriculture more efficiently, more effectively, and more economically.


President



A Bit of History

The multi-million dollar Honegger feed, chick, farm buildings, and livestock and poultry equipment business got its start 32 years ago when two central Illinois farm boys, Sam and Frank Honegger, borrowed a car and went to the Illinois State Fair, where they bought a new type of grinder to make feeds for their own dairy herd on their mother's farm south of Forrest, Illinois.

When the brothers started getting better results from the rations they were feeding their own cows and chickens, nearby farm folks began dropping in to get some of the feed ground with the new hammermill and mixed by Sam with a scoop shovel.

To meet the demand, the brothers erected a small feed mill on their farm, three miles south of Forrest. To the hammermill, they added a wooden churn-type mixer powered by a tractor engine.

It was an inauspicious beginning, but not a quiet one for the noisy contraption could be heard a mile away.

By 1942 the old Forrest farm mill would no longer handle the expanding business, so feed milling equipment was installed in a livery stable across from a grain elevator in Fairbury and the two combined to make what was then a reasonably modern feed manufacturing plant. The mill burned in 1949 and a new ultra modern manufacturing unit was built on the west edge of Fairbury during that and the succeeding year.

Today their Fairbury plant, erected in 1950 is believed to be America's most inspected feed mill. Two other feed plants, one located at Indianola, Iowa, and the other at Lincoln, Nebraska, now distribute many thousands of tons of feed per month to farm customers through a far-flung dealer organization that extends from South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas eastward to the Atlantic ocean.

The Fairbury plant has a capacity of well over 12,000 tons per month and has actually produced more than 11,000 tons in one month during a peak

period. It is one of the first electronically controlled "push button" feed mills ever built in America. The Honegger operation is deeply involved in the poultry laying field through an associate company known as Honegger Farms Co., Inc., which is located on the 600 Acre Research Farm located three miles south of Forrest. (See story on Page 24).

Sam and Frank at first had little regard for chickens and kept only 101 hens when they were participating in the Pioneer Farm Bureau Farm Management Service some 25 years ago.

A field service man from the University of Illinois pointed out to them that a well-managed poultry laying flock would return more for the money invested than the same amount of investment in other types of farming. So Sam and Frank set about putting themselves and Livingston County farmers into the egg business.

Today over 250 Honegger Associate Hatcheries across the nation and in several foreign lands are furnished with foundation stock from the Honegger Breeder Hatchery and somewhere in excess of 19 million Honegger Chix are produced each year.

These Honegger laying birds are distributed exclusively throughout the Honegger feed trade territory by Honegger feed dealers. This strengthens the Honegger feed dealer franchise program.

Honeggers' entry into the farm buildings field a few years back came about gradually through their perfection of a practical yet scientifically designed house that helped improve flock health and improve egg production. They realized that if their laying bird and feed were to perform most efficiently that modern type housing should be provided.

Their farm buildings business was given a shot in the arm two years ago by the acquisition of Green Gable Builders, Inc., of Onawa, Iowa. Green Gable Builders were at that time manufacturing a varied line of farm structures. The line of farm buildings has been expanded until now many types of farm structures, corn cribs, grain bins, machine sheds, poultry houses, hog houses, milk sheds, etc. are offered to better serve agriculture. These products are offered, exclusively, to Honegger dealers. This also strengthens the Honegger dealer franchise program materially.

For several years Honeggers have distributed a wide line of livestock and poultry equipment, medication and specialty products designed for proper care and feeding as a management aid to farmers. A new metal prefabrication plant located at Taylorville, Illinois, acquired in 1957 has enabled the company to introduce some two dozen Honegger-built equipment items which have been enthusiastically accepted by dealers and farmers alike. These products are offered on an exclusive basis to Honegger dealers. This again enhances

and strengthens the Honegger dealer franchise program.

So from a very humble beginning, the Honegger operations have expanded into a wide variety of agricultural products and services to improve farm family income. It is believed that this diversification and integration of commercial operation is an added guarantee in providing financial stability for the firm.

It has been said that no business is any better or any stronger than the character and business integrity of the men who own it and run it. Also, it has been said that we learn to do by doing. Both of these statements apply quite directly to the Honegger operation and these two men. Both men are of strong character and of unquestionable business integrity. They have worked through the years as any other employee, on the farm, in the office, and out in the sales territories, and in every phase of the company's operation. As the company has prospered and grown into a nation-wide organization, so have Sam and Frank grown in knowledge and understanding into broad gauge businessmen with a keen perception of business matters, a thorough understanding of farming methods, a sincere compassion for the farmers problems, and a deep concern for the human side of business as it effects both employees and customers.

Naturally, the Honegger brothers have not made this great growth alone. They have found it necessary to bring in many capable executives through the years. One of these is E. F. Dickey, now President and General Manager, who joined the firm on January 1, 1949.

Mr. Dickey was elected to the Board of Directors early in 1951 and made a Vice President later that same year. In 1953 he was appointed General Manager and elected Executive Vice President in 1955. The Honegger brothers nominated him for President in December of 1958. A native Hoosier, Mr. Dickey graduated from Indiana law school in 1931 with an L.L.B. degree. He has developed a management team which during his service with the company has seen the company's feed tonnage grow from 2,000 tons per month to a high of 14,000 tons in one month. Likewise, the firm's profits have increased many times over and net worth has grown to more than 3½ million dollars.

During this same period, as a means of diversifying income and stabilizing profits, the company has broadened its activities into the manufacture, sale, and distribution of prefabricated farm buildings, corn cribs, grain bins, etc.; and into the manufacture, sale, and distribution of livestock and poultry equipment. Two modern plants have been acquired for these operations and two additional modern feed mills have also been purchased to enlarge and stabilize company profits and employees' opportunities for growth and extra compensation.



Operation's Report



MR. ERWIN C. WASCHER, Vice President - Operations, has been with the company since 1945. In 1952 he was promoted to Vice President and designated Director of Procurement and Production. He was elected to the firm's Board of Directors and was named Assistant General Manager of the company in 1955. In 1958 he was appointed to his present position of Vice President of Operations. During his 15 years with Honeggers', Mr. Wascher's duties have embraced practically every phase of company activity. This broad experience particularly qualifies him for his role as Vice President of Operations. He is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the company and for the execution of plans, policies, and programs as may be developed by the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, or the President.

FACILITIES

GRAIN STORAGE has become an important phase of the Honegger operation. The 900,000 bushel storage unit at our Lincoln plant is completely filled with grain storage and earning a satisfactory income.

The 1,800,000 bushel storage adjacent to the Fairbury feed mill was completed about the first of this year and began filling with grain. It is now three-quarters full and will, undoubtedly, be filled within the next 30 days. In addition to the income from storage, this Fairbury unit gives us considerably more flexibility in unloading for our Fairbury feed mill, as well as grain conditioning and holding space. It will be an economically-important adjunct to the Fairbury plant during the coming years.

FEED MANUFACTURING at the Fairbury plant has continued with little or no additional capital expenditures during the past year. A considerable trend has been noted toward the shipment of bulk feeds and also the additional use of concentrates at the expense of complete feeds which, in effect, makes a reduction on total volume of feed produced. Bulk shipments have increased during the past 12 months from approximately 2½% of total volume to approximately 20% of total volume. Bulk shipments are made in several bulk trucks as well as a fleet of eight covered-hopper cars which are under long-term lease for our exclusive use.

Manufacturing at the Indianola, Iowa, feed plant has maintained a satisfactory volume. No capital expenditures for manufacturing equipment have been made at Indianola during the past year and only modest expansion or modernizing of these facilities are budgeted for the coming year.

The Lincoln, Nebraska, feed manufacturing plant has noticed a small increase in manufacturing and sales over the past months due primarily to in-sales over the past months. Due to the increase in bulk feed sales, bulk facilities need expansion at this plant. However, this does not require a substantial amount of money.

BUILDING MANUFACTURING at the Onawa, Iowa, plant has continued on a satisfactory basis without any manufacturing facilities' expansion.

EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURING at the Taylorville, Illinois, equipment plant has been further

expanded by the acquisition of Makomb Steel Products and the consolidation of manufacturing both lines of equipment at Taylorville. A capital expenditure was made of approximately \$100,000.00 to secure some of the manufacturing equipment, as well as jigs and dies of the Makomb Co. Expanded sales of equipment during the past few months have done much to improve this phase of our business.

PERSONNEL

All plants are now operating on an "autonomous" basis with each plant manager being responsible for all phases of the activities. Sales Management, Purchasing, Traffic, Accounting, and Personnel from the Home Office act in an advisory capacity as needed or required from time to time.

Personnel training and efficiency development of plant and office personnel are available at all plants, and in-plant training sessions, as well as outside training courses, are developed and encouraged by our Personnel Manager on his regular trips to all locations.

Consolidation of several jobs and realigning of workloads have made it possible to eliminate some jobs in the past year without lowering work standards. Additional mechanization through expanded use of IBM accounting equipment has also aided in reducing clerical work in the handling of inventories and sales invoicing.

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

NEW PRODUCTS are the result of continued research and development. The continued trend toward larger commercial flocks of poultry has led to the development and marketing of larger poultry houses with mechanical feeding and egg-gathering equipment. The trend toward bulk feeds has added to the necessity for development and production of bulk feed handling equipment and bulk feed storage tanks. We believe these units will be economically important in our equipment sales of the future. Expanded knowledge of the need for additional vitamin and mineral fortification, as well as other advances in the Science of Animal Nutrition, has resulted in the formulation of several new feeds and the elimination of older lines. Undoubtedly, our search for new things via research and development will continue to be an important link in Honegger growth.

Sales Report



MR. ELMER S. ROTH, Vice President and General Sales Manager, through his 18 years of service with the company, has climbed the sales ladder from farm service man to retail store manager, manager of the retail department, district sales manager, division sales manager, assistant sales manager, to his present position. He grew up as a neighboring farm boy to the Honegger brothers and has developed into a hard-working, forceful sales executive. He personally pilots himself in a company plane some 600 to 800 hours per year.

PAST

Viewed in retrospect, the past fiscal period was one of sales turbulence. During the past twelve months, most of the sales department operated in the most difficult selling climate of their career. These facts are pointed out, not as an alibi for a lower sales volume, but as an appraisal of what has happened, and as a guide for charting future action.

The twelve month period brought a new low for recent years in both egg and hog prices. Many feedlots were not filled in the fall of 1959 due to pessimism felt on the part of many cattle feeders. Competition for the business that existed was extremely keen.

This struggle for business was further intensified by the merchandising approaches of competitors. During the past year, more manufacturers have bypassed normal retail and local distribution and have sold direct to the consumer. Competition was further complicated by the increase of local "Cross Road" mills or, in many cases, sub-manufacturers building a feed line from pre-mix bases and merchandising direct to the consumer.

In some cases and in some areas, restricted credit was a deterrent to expanded sales. It was difficult at times, to determine where it was safe to use the credit that was available for the expediting of additional sales.

As this picture became apparent early in the year, a planned program to cope with it was launched. In August, more stringent and demanding assignments were given to sales personnel. This action required a tightening of belts and a more vigorous shoulder-to-the-wheel approach. It also involved a calculated risk of losing some sales personnel who could not adjust themselves to the vigorous requirements of this program. As was expected, a number of men were eliminated from the sales team. This involved men both of little and lengthy tenure. In effect, "the boys were sorted from the men". It is understood that this re-assignment and turn-over of sales personnel is not a unique problem today, but closely parallels conditions existing in many segments of today's marketing economy.

The sales team was realigned during the year to present a stronger, more effective front for the present and future merchandising efforts. In connection with this realignment, changes were made

in the compensation program to encourage more individual action and effort on the part of each and every man. The success of this move is apparent, in light of increased field effectiveness per man. During the last quarter of the 1959-60 year, the average man on the field force obtained 13% more reed business than the average salesman produced during the same quarter of the previous year.

PRESENT

In the expanding national economy, agriculture, too, is on the march. Some 100 years ago, 89% of the country's population was actively engaged in agriculture. Today, approximately 10% of the people produce all the food and fiber that contribute not only to the highest standard of living ever known, but further contribute to extensive, cumbersome surpluses. This trend has developed as a result of increased technological information and application, not only in grain production, but also in livestock and poultry production.

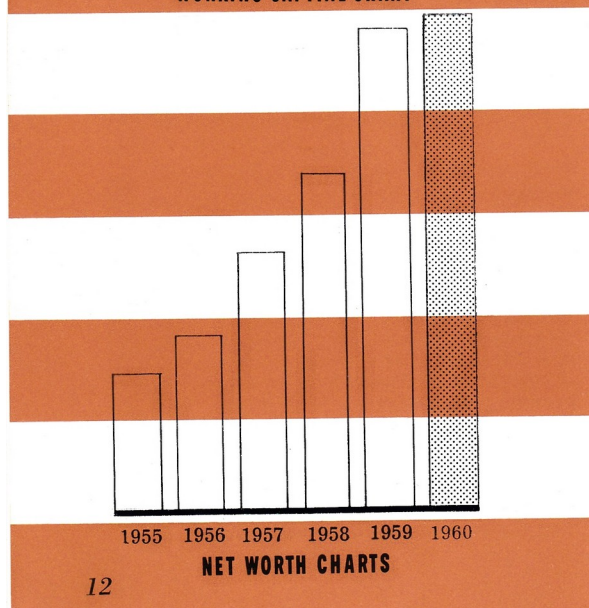
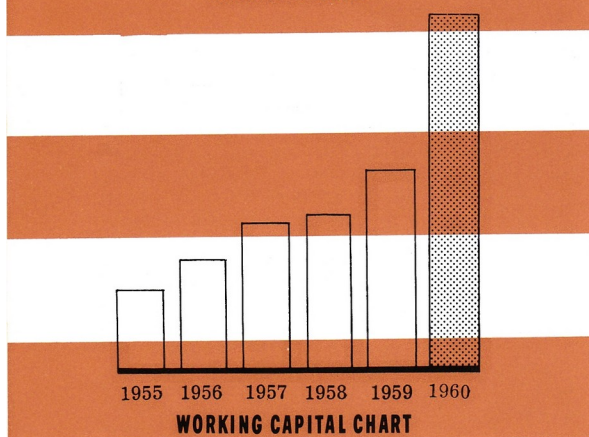
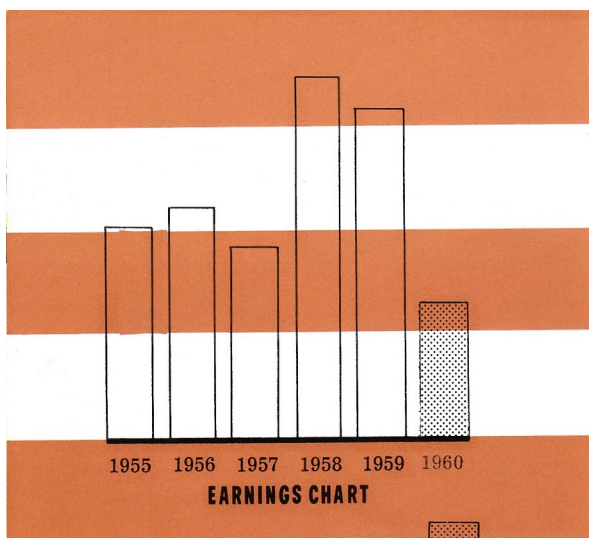
As a result of the units of agriculture production becoming larger and more efficient, all phases of agribusiness are affected. The number of customers and potential customers is decreasing and the demands for specialized treatment and service by those remaining increases.

Today's farmer, to survive must be an efficient, practical businessman, and in his role of purchasing agent, has become an exacting, demanding customer.

FUTURE

It is anticipated that during the coming decade, as many as one-third of our present farmers will be removed from business. This exodus will be forced by an extremely competitive economic condition. The "survival of the fittest" is but one more step in the agriculture revolution that is so apparent today. These master food producers and master farmers that will evolve in this coming period will be even more demanding of technical information and assistance. They will demand honest products at honest prices and will insist that these products be made available to them in the easiest, most convenient manner conceivable.

At the present time, the Sales Department is planning bold new merchandising programs that will be carried to the field by Company representatives possessing higher levels of technical training than at any time in the history of the industry.



..... Earnings

Net profit after taxes amounted to \$84,323.10, down substantially from last year's all time high and also down to only 47% of the past five-year average. This, of course, is discouraging if only statistics are studied. This represents an earning of only 30c per share on the number of shares outstanding against 81c per share last year when calculated on the same number of shares, or only a little better than 2.4% on the capital and surplus invested at the beginning of the fiscal year. This, of course, is not a fair return on investment. This is the first year since the company's incorporation that the company has failed to make 10%, or more, after taxes, on the capital invested at the beginning of the year. New facilities constructed the past two years totaling close to 2 million dollars should bring profits for the year ahead to a satisfactory level. These new facilities are now producing income and should make a substantial improvement in the 1961 net. Also a substantial improvement in the price of eggs and pork should stimulate feed, farm buildings, and equipment sales and materially improve profits.

... Working Capital ...

At the close of the fiscal year on June 30, 1960, total assets of the company amounted to \$6,987,859.07. Current assets of the company were \$3,741,840.10, and current liabilities were \$1,518,900.49, showing a current ratio of 2.46:1. The balance sheet shows working capital at \$2,222,939.61. This improves effective working capital by 181% as compared with last June 30 and places our company in an excellent current position. This improvement has been made possible through long-term financing effected during the latter part of the fiscal period just closed.

..... Net Worth

Net worth has increased gradually through the years from profits earned and retained after taxes. Further gains have been made through corporate acquisitions in the form of tax-free mergers, and also through the sale of stock to employees and the public. Employee purchases of stock on the company's share-a-month amounted to \$28,727.56 during the past year. No new stock was sold to the public. Retained earnings through the years have amounted to \$1,440,606.41, of which \$680,657.00 has been transferred to capital by the issuance of stock dividends. Net worth at year end stood at \$3,539,853.58, which is nearly 4 times what it was just five short years ago.

... Market Distribution ...

The company distributes its products primarily in 17 states, although some feed, some equipment, and some farm buildings are shipped into several other states at irregular intervals. However, the really large volume of the company's distribution is centered primarily in the midwest.

The past years have seen a further development of the Iowa market and a strong entry into the Missouri, Minnesota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas markets. New sales divisions organized in these new market areas have developed strongly throughout the past year. Most of the company's feed products are moved by carload dealers and many dealers have been added during the past year.

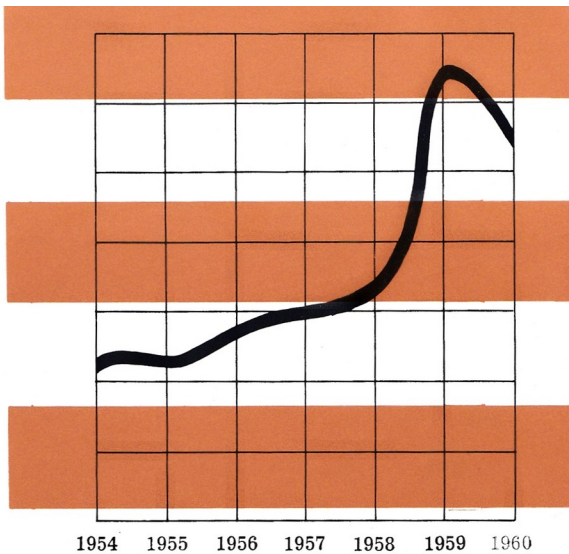
The company maintains a franchise agreement with the Mayfield Milling Company, Mayfield, Ky., for the manufacture of Honeggers' Big "H" Feeds and for the sale and distribution of the company's other products. The sales division covering Western Kentucky and Western Tennessee is making satisfactory progress. This new area will be worked aggressively during the year ahead.

... Management ...

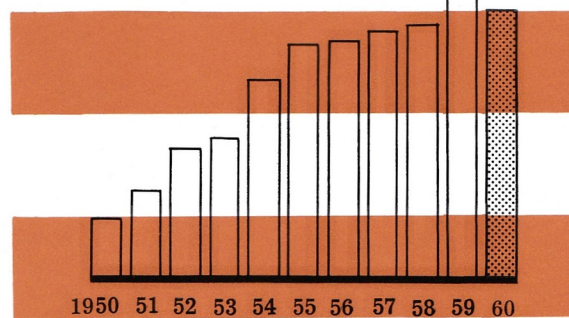
The Board was expanded by the addition of three more directors during recent years to broaden and further diversify the base of the board's knowledge and business judgment. The three new directors include a competent and outstanding lawyer, Mr. E. Wayne Schroeder, of Decatur, Illinois; an investment banker, Mr. Shelton Mozley, of St. Louis, Mo., with more than 35 years of experience in his field; and a university professor, Dr. L. C. Cunningham, of Cornell University, Ithica, N. Y., one of the nation's outstanding agricultural economists.

The company's operating management has been strengthened during the past few years with capable and well-qualified officers administering each major phase of the company's operation. Behind this staff of competent officers are well-trained department managers and junior executives. A Junior Board of Directors has been created to help develop top management thinking and planning on the part of key employees. Representatives on this Junior Board are from each major department of the company, from each of the company's outlying plants, and all of the company's officers who are not members of the Senior Board. The Junior Board meets at regular quarterly intervals, studies company problems, particularly as they apply to employees and employee relations, and makes recommendations to the Company's Executive Committee.

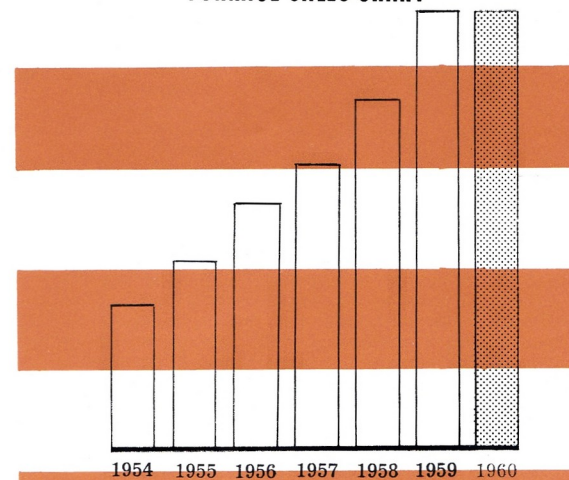
Definite programs of self-improvement are carried out in connection with developing executive skills. It is felt that this corporate structure, training program and organization gives substantial depth to the company's management.



FIELD SALES PERSONNEL

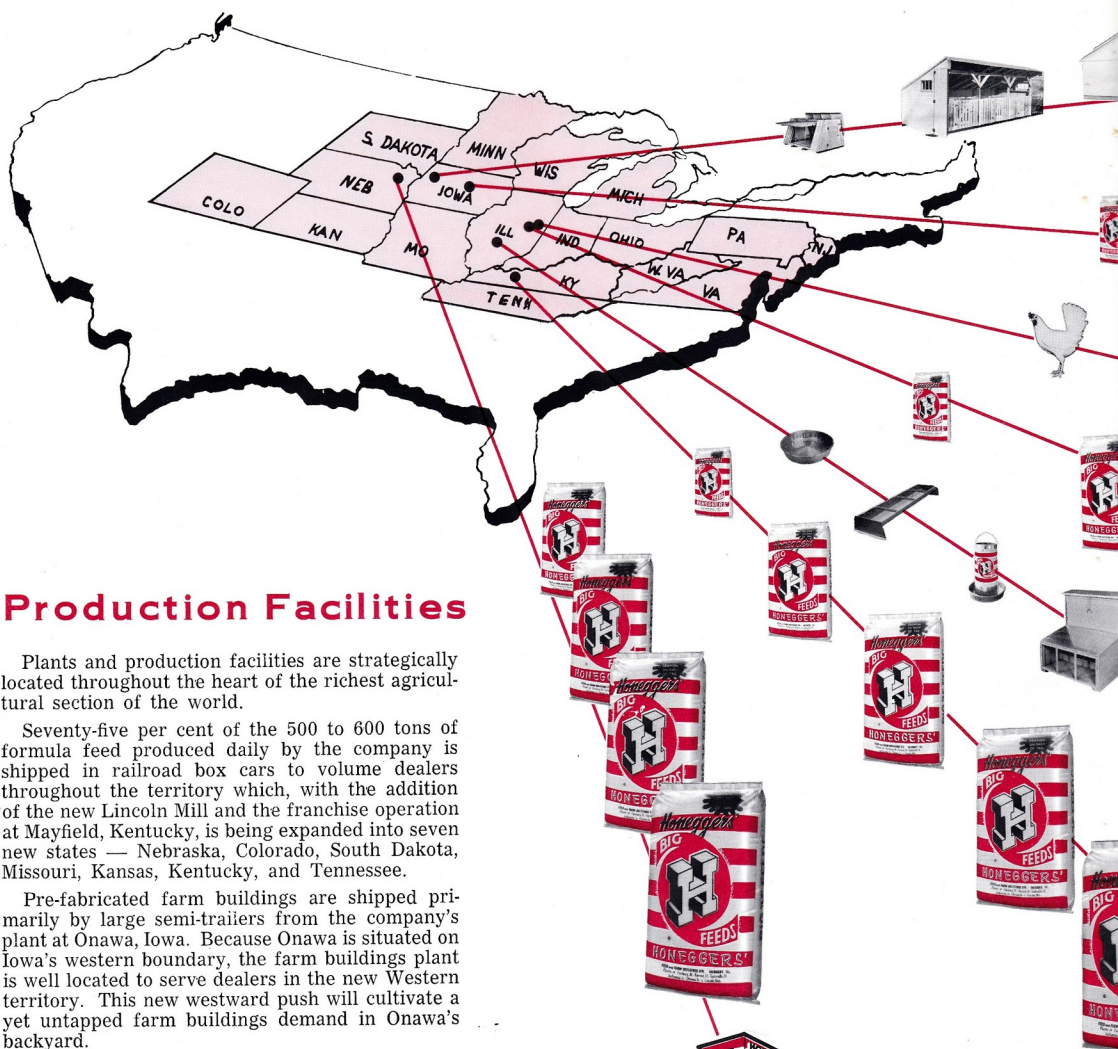


TONNAGE SALES CHART



DEALER ORGANIZATION

Serving the Heart of Agriculture



Production Facilities

Plants and production facilities are strategically located throughout the heart of the richest agricultural section of the world.

Seventy-five per cent of the 500 to 600 tons of formula feed produced daily by the company is shipped in railroad box cars to volume dealers throughout the territory which, with the addition of the new Lincoln Mill and the franchise operation at Mayfield, Kentucky, is being expanded into seven new states — Nebraska, Colorado, South Dakota, Missouri, Kansas, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

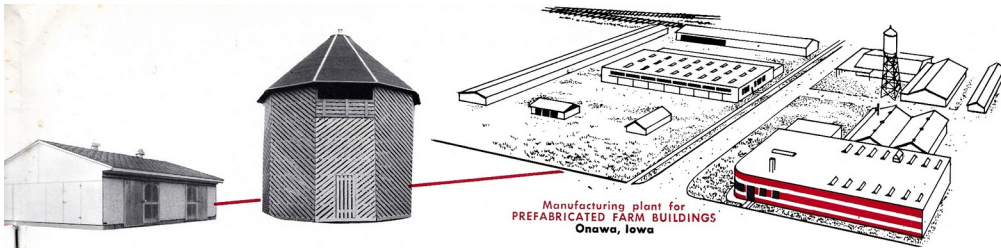
Pre-fabricated farm buildings are shipped primarily by large semi-trailers from the company's plant at Onawa, Iowa. Because Onawa is situated on Iowa's western boundary, the farm buildings plant is well located to serve dealers in the new Western territory. This new westward push will cultivate a yet untapped farm buildings demand in Onawa's backyard.

More than two dozen kinds and types of livestock and poultry equipment items are produced at Taylorville. While some deliveries are made by truck direct from the equipment plant, most of the equipment output is warehoused at the company's feed plants. The equipment is then shipped to dealers in carloads of feed. This single-source, single-shipment program is very popular among dealers.

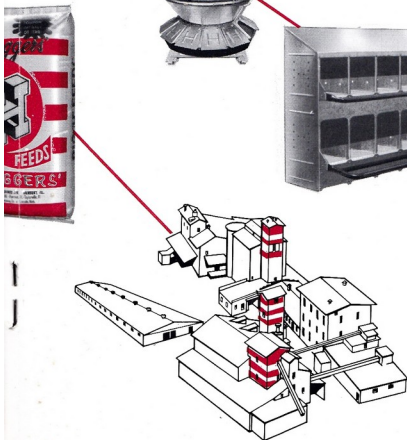
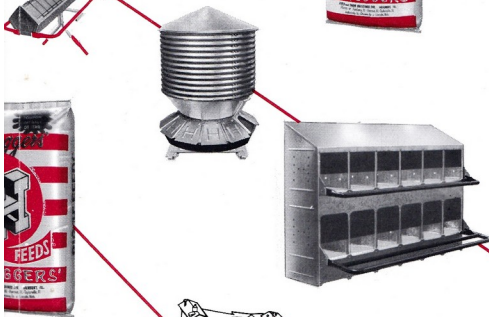
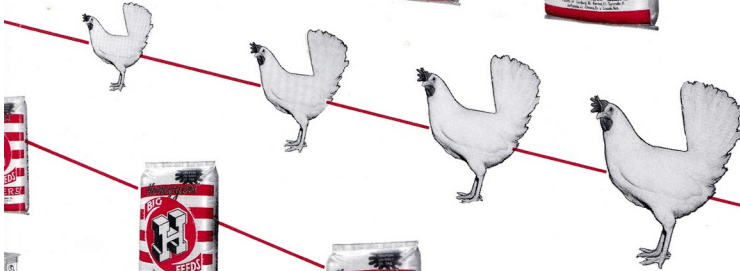
Additional production facilities are planned throughout this midwest concentrated region to meet the ever-increasing sale of Honegger products.



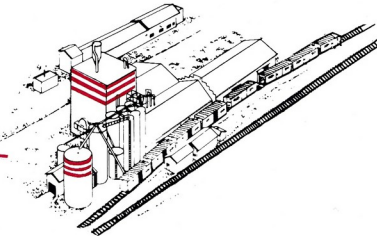
LINCOLN FEED MILL
Lincoln, Nebraska



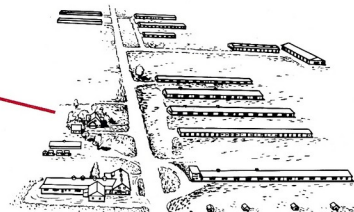
Manufacturing plant for
PREFABRICATED FARM BUILDINGS
Onawa, Iowa



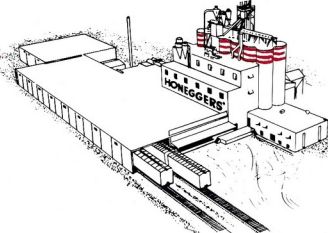
MAYFIELD MILLING COMPANY
Mayfield, Kentucky



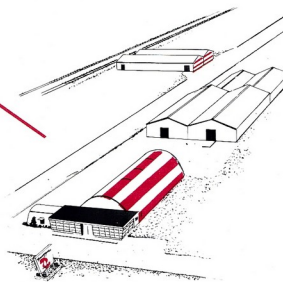
INDIANOLA FEED MILL
Indianola, Iowa



HONEGGER BREEDER HATCHERY
Breeding Farm
Forrest, Illinois



FAIRBURY FEED MILL
Fairbury, Illinois



TAYLORVILLE
EQUIPMENT PLANT
Taylorville, Illinois



DR. LOGAN T. WILSON, Nutritionist, joined Honeggers' & Co., Inc., in 1952. A member of the company's seven-man Nutrition Staff, he is responsible for formulations. Dr. Wilson is a member of the executive committee of the Nutrition Council of the American Feed Manufacturers Association. Recognized as an authority on livestock and poultry management practices, he was chairman of the council's Management Survey Committee. This group worked with college researchers; test farm personnel, and other sources in compiling standardized management recommendations which were published for the benefit of the feed industry and the farmers it serves. His work in livestock nutrition, animal diseases, and milk composition has been published in a number of scientific journals and he is a regular contributor to farm magazines.

Research at the 600-acre Honegger Research Farm is an essential part of the Honegger feed manufacturing and merchandising programs.

The production of manufactured feeds has progressed a long way from the original business of mixing together several common grains and by-products. It now involves a great variety of minerals, vitamins, drugs, anti-oxidants, etc., many used in minute amounts, as well as dozens of other ingredients which make up the feed formula.

The production of an increasing variety of feeds for specific purposes, which are now involved in the feed business, requires much investigation and experimental work. This is the main function of our nutrition staff, our experimental farm, and research and control laboratory. By the use of these facilities our company is able to maintain a leading position in providing feeds which help to make our farmer customers some of the most efficient producers of livestock products.

How this research is developed and applied can be indicated by some examples. One is the development of low cost complete rations for laying hens. Formerly, most laying hens were given a combination of a laying mash, farm grains and oyster shell, all fed separately. The use of automatic feeders and also the keeping of layers in cages makes this system of feeding inconvenient. Through research at Honeggers' we have been able to develop a low cost efficient complete laying ration. We have also produced concentrates to combine with large proportions of local grains, to make locally mixed complete laying rations. Thus we have made it possible for poultrymen to use the latest developments in labor saving equipment and still keep down the cost of feed.

Another important field of work of this kind is the development of life-cycle feeding programs for swine raised in confinement. The recent trend in swine production is toward intensive operations, where the animals are confined to paved lots. We have done extensive experimental work on gestation and lactation rations for brood sows, anemia control and creep feeding of nursing pigs, and dry lot feeding of growing and fattening pigs. This has enabled us to offer feeds and recommendations es-

pecially adapted to intensive confinement programs, as well as other swine raising methods.

Beef cattle feeding is becoming more important in our research program. By using identical twins in cattle feeding experiments we have been able to enlarge the scope of this work with only a small increase in labor and facilities.

Tours of our company's many interesting facilities continue to be one of our most effective means of promotion. The research farm is one of the chief attractions for bringing in visitors for these tours.

PRODUCT CONTROL

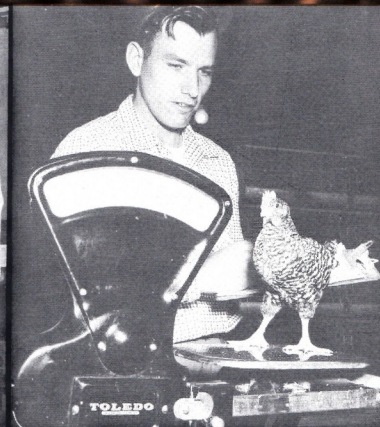
Product Control is closely related to research and development. One phase of product control is using the results of research in making up all of the many feed formulas used at our different mills. This also includes supplying mixing formulas for local dealers who make up locally mixed feeds from our mixing concentrates and blends.

Laboratory checking of feed production operations is another phase of product control. This involves (1) reading of production weigh scale tapes, (2) examination and analyzing of samples of manufactured feeds and purchased ingredients, (3) supervision of mixing of premixes containing vitamins, trace minerals and drugs, and inventory control on these products. Product Control of all feed mills is centralized at the Fairbury office and Laboratory.

It takes a lot of people and a lot of money to keep abreast of today's rapid developments in animal nutrition. The Company has spent \$84,000.00 during the past year on nutritional research and control. While this seems like a lot of money, it amounts to less than 1.7c per bag of feed produced. The company plans to continue this vital phase of its operation. It is believed that this will aid in maintaining the company's position of leadership down through the years.

*Better Feed for Better Food
...at Less Cost*

and Development



Above Center — Modern laboratories are essential in today's complex feed formulation.

Upper Left — First experimental building of a great research center.

Upper Right — Gram weights tell an accurate story in Broiler feeding experiments.

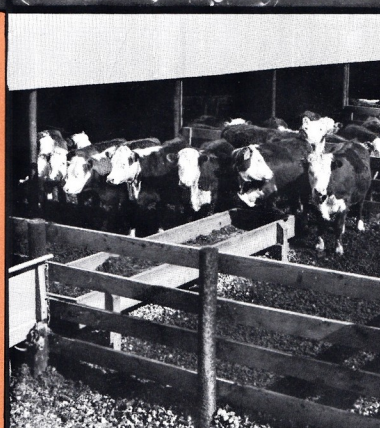
Left Center — Expansive Swine pasture tests require much field equipment.

Right Center — Cattle research has pointed the way to cheaper beef.

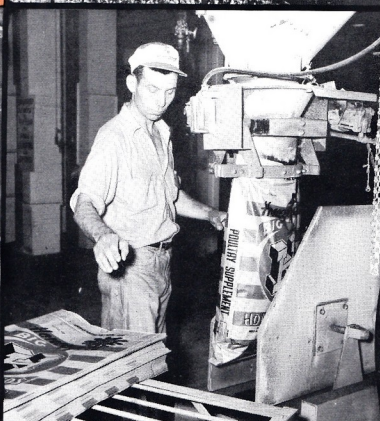
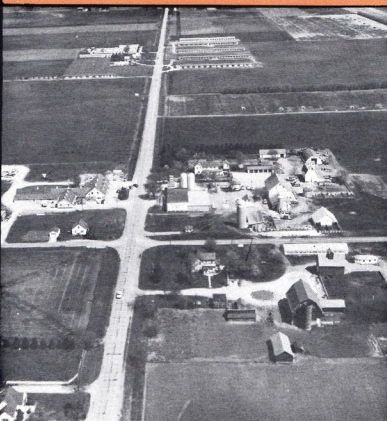
Lower Left — Thousands of pigs and vast facilities are utilized for dry lot swine feeding research.

Lower Right — The net result of research dollars, better feed for better food — at less cost

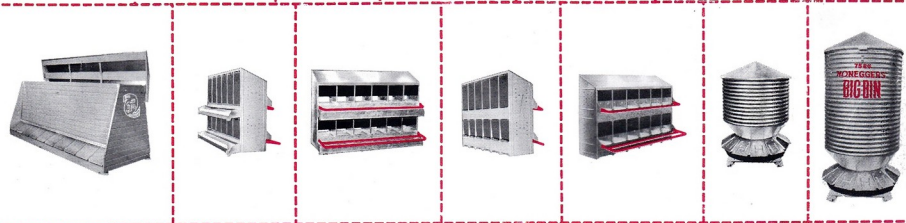
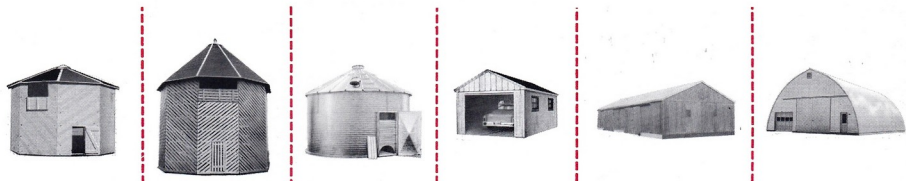
Lower Center — Aerial view of 600 acre research farm.



EXP. No. 1037	PEN 2	EXP. No. 1037	PEN 3
Started	7-31-51	Date Started	7-31-51
No. of Pigs Started	5	No. of Pigs Started	5
Beginning Age	45 days	Av. Beginning Age	45 days
Beginning Wt.	24.25 lbs.	Av. Beginning Wt.	24.75 lbs.
12 Week Data		18 Week Data	
Age Wt.	112.4-51	Average Wt.	283.3 lbs.
Efficiency	2.968 lbs.	Feed Efficiency	2.526 lbs.
Age Daily Gain	242 lbs.	Average Daily Gain	1.363 lbs.
per Lb.	13c	Cost Per Lb.	9-4



SOME OF OUR PRODUCTS



Restated Income Summary 10 Year Analysis

Year Ended June 30	Sales	Expense	Profit	Fed. & State Inc. Tax	Net	% Earned on Capital invested at beginning of each Year	Earnings per share*
1951	\$ 6,335,322	\$ 481,393	\$248,029	\$117,274	\$130,755	17%	.46
1952	8,835,135	944,063	184,000	93,896	90,104	10%	.32
1953	8,695,871	1,072,213	233,640	122,758	110,882	11%	.39
1954	10,145,402	1,111,145	245,089	132,191	112,898	18%	.40
1955	11,476,889	1,312,948	291,318	146,002	145,316	17%	.51
1956	10,623,452	1,569,725	288,203	130,783	157,420	17%	.56
1957	11,579,573	1,861,614	284,057	152,736	131,321	10%	.46
1958	12,540,968	2,774,043	541,466	292,259	249,207	14%	.88
1959	17,006,458	4,288,838	552,886	324,026	228,860	10%	.81
1960	13,989,052	4,093,862	160,923	76,600	84,323	2.4%	.30

*Adjusted to basis of 282,402 shares outstanding on June 30, 1960

AUDITORS' CERTIFICATE

To the Board of Directors,
Honeggers' & Co., Inc.,
Fairbury, Illinois
Gentlemen:

Decatur, Illinois
July 28, 1960

We have examined the Consolidated Balance Sheet of Honeggers' & Co., Inc., and its wholly owned subsidiary, as of June 30, 1960, and the related Consolidated Statements of Income and Retained Earnings. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and therefore included all tests of the accounting records and other procedures which we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, the accompanying statements present fairly the consolidated financial position of Honeggers' & Co., Inc., and its wholly owned subsidiary at June 30, 1960, and the results of their operations for the year then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Very respectfully yours,
(s) Murphey, Turnbull & Jones
Certified Public Accountants

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE



MR. R. B. CONCANNON, Vice President for Finance, joined the company as Controller in January, 1957. He was elected Treasurer in March, 1958, and Vice President in July, 1958. He was treasurer and controller for his previous employer, and prior to that was Senior Accountant for a national public accounting firm. Mr. Concannon holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Iowa and a C.P.A. certificate from the University of Illinois. His varied financial and administrative experience makes him ideally suited for his present responsibilities which include all phases of finance management at Honeggers, including treasury, control, general accounting, IBM accounting, internal security, budgeting.

Assets

	1960	1959
Cash	\$ 173,013.24	\$ 112,676.62
Receivables, less allowance for losses, and less acceptances discounted with recourse 1960, none; 1959, \$222,132.26 (Note 1)	1,929,012.98	1,365,749.16
Inventories (ingredients and grain at purchase market; other materials at lower of cost or market)		
Feed, meal, ingredients and grain	510,487.22	406,284.23
Resale buildings, equipment and materials	1,066,006.83	1,093,002.07
Prepaid insurance and other expense	63,319.83	51,971.35
Total current assets	\$3,741,840.10	\$3,029,683.43
Investments, at cost	14,969.70	16,669.70
Property, plant and equipment, at cost less accumulated depreciation	2,933,279.64	2,219,060.66
Other assets		
Development costs, net	33,363.02	52,486.05
Deferred loan expense	31,511.93	0
Cash surrender value of life insurance	59,459.15	47,932.78
Notes and contracts, non-current	173,435.53	136,547.77
	<u>\$6,987,859.07</u>	<u>\$5,502,380.39</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this balance sheet

SHEET AT JUNE 30, 1960

Liabilities

	1960	1959
Accounts payable, trade and associated companies	\$ 276,043.15	\$ 225,752.79
Notes payable	905,300.83	0
Current maturities on term notes payable and contracts	38,156.00	240,956.00
Provision for Federal and state income taxes (Note 3)	62,400.00	251,159.48
Salaries and wages	38,805.31	113,380.22
Contribution to Employees Profit Sharing Trust	0	33,826.85
Accrued merchandise premium expense	89,957.15	103,897.41
Accrued other liabilities, including payroll and property taxes	108,238.05	93,629.69
Total current liabilities	\$1,518,900.49	\$1,062,602.44
Term liabilities, less current maturities shown above (Note 4)	1,919,405.00	982,961.00
Deferred income taxes (Note 3)	9,700.00	0
Total liabilities	\$3,448,005.49	\$2,045,563.44

STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

Capital stock, common, no par value (Note 6)				
	1960	1959		
Shares authorized	500,000	500,000		
Shares issued	282,402	265,526	\$2,409,012.08	\$2,125,416.52
Paid-in surplus			327,943.81	327,943.81
Received for treasury stock sold, in excess of cost			42,948.28	42,948.28
			\$2,779,904.17	2,496,308.61
Retained earnings			759,949.41	960,508.34
Total stockholders' equity			\$3,539,853.58	\$3,456,816.95
			\$6,987,859.07	\$5,502,380.39

EARNINGS

Comparative Statement of Consolidated Income

	Years ended June 30,	
	1960	1959
Sales, gross	\$13,989,051.72	\$17,006,458.15
Less, deduction for freight, returns, allowances and discounts	481,646.92	587,892.68
Net sales	\$13,507,404.80	\$16,418,565.47
Cost of goods sold	9,558,629.05	11,726,799.37
Gross profit	\$ 3,948,775.75	\$ 4,691,766.10
Other income	306,009.37	225,025.08
Total income	\$ 4,254,785.12	\$ 4,916,791.18
Manufacturing, trucking, research, selling and general administrative expense	4,093,862.02	4,363,905.26
Operating profit before tax	\$ 160,923.10	\$ 552,885.92
Federal and State income taxes (Note 3)	76,600.00	324,025.69
Net income	\$ 84,323.10	\$ 228,860.23

Comparative data used herein are taken from our report for the preceding year after reclassification of items to conform with the current year.

Statement of Retained Earnings

Year Ended June 30, 1960

RETAINED EARNINGS, June 30, 1959		\$ 960,508.34
Add, net adjustment resulting from examination of prior year's tax returns by the Internal Revenue Service		1,895.81
Less, adjustment of beginning grain inventory		9,642.36
RETAINED EARNINGS, as adjusted July 1, 1959		\$ 952,761.79
Add, net income, year ended June 30, 1960		84,323.10
Less, dividends paid during the year		
In stock	\$ 254,868.00	
In cash	22,267.48	277,135.48
RETAINED EARNINGS, June 30, 1960		\$ 759,949.41

Notes to Auditor's Statement

1. RECEIVABLES:

At June 30, 1960 approximately 9% of the total receivables of the Company was represented by one contract. Subsequently, the Company purchased a stock interest of 12.7% in this customer and certain officers of the Company have interests therein.

2. MERGER OF SUBSIDIARY:

At February 29, 1960 Makomb Steel Products Corporation (formerly Power Scoop Corporation) a wholly owned subsidiary was merged into the parent company. This merger made available to the parent for income tax purposes an operating loss carry forward in the amount of \$182,285.83, based on returns as filed by the subsidiary for its fiscal years ended, April 30, 1956, \$38,418.65, April 30, 1958, \$4,704.58, April 30, 1959, \$51,304.62, and February 29, 1960, \$87,857.98. Unused net operating losses may be carried forward to the five taxable years subsequent to the year of the net operating loss. Of the total available, \$65,367.00 has been used to reduce taxable income for the year ended June 30, 1960, giving a tax benefit of \$33,991.00.

3. INCOME TAX STATUS:

The Federal income tax returns of the parent company have been examined through the fiscal year ended June 30, 1959. All adjustments resulting from these examinations are reflected in the attached statements. The returns for the wholly owned subsidiary, and for the former subsidiary which merged into the parent company at February 29, 1960, have not been examined. The current year's tax liability reflects the effect of the following:

1. The net operating loss carry-forward of Makomb Steel Products Corporation in the amount of \$65,367.00 is applied.
2. Accelerated depreciation on grain storage facilities resulting in an additional deduction of \$18,606.68 is taken. A provision for deferred income tax in the amount of \$9,700.00 has been established to provide for additional taxes which will result from reduced depreciation allowable in future years.
3. The reduction in current year's taxable income arising from the adjustment of inventory of the prior year in the amount of \$14,142.36 is taken. The tax reduction of \$4,500.00 arising from this charge is used to reduce the adjustment to retained earnings.

4. TERM LIABILITIES:

The cash surrender values of life insurance of \$39,579.70 and certain plant, property and equipment with unrecovered costs of \$232,823.43 are pledged as collateral for \$111,625.00 of term liabilities. On April 15, 1960 the Company entered into a loan agreement with the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America and the Home Life Insurance Company for \$1,800,000.00. The agreement is evidenced by notes bearing interest at 6% and payable in annual payments of \$130,000.00, due April 15 of the years 1962 to 1974 inclusive, and on April 15, 1975 a final installment of \$110,000.00. The notes are unsecured, but the agreement does include certain restrictive covenants.

5. CONTINGENT LIABILITY:

The Company is contingently liable under certain salary continuation plans and agreements with its officers to purchase, after death, the Company capital stock owned by them. The maximum liability of the Company is covered by life insurance carried on each officer, except in one instance where the maximum liability of the Company exceeds the amount of insurance carried by \$20,600. The Company is also contingently liable under a salary continuation agreement, to the beneficiary of a deceased former employee, in the total amount of \$5,666.81 payable at \$333.33 per month.

6. EXECUTIVE STOCK OPTION PLAN:

On January 13, 1959, the Company reserved 24,000 shares of its common capital stock for an executive stock option plan. The aggregate number of shares available under the plan and the maximum number of shares which may be optioned to any employee is to be adjusted by reason of stock dividends, split-ups, recapitalizations, mergers, consolidations, reorganizations or liquidations. The option price is 90% of the fair market value on the date the option is granted.

On January 13, 1959 options were granted to certain employees to purchase 19,800 shares at \$15.975 per share. Purchases of the optioned stock may not be made prior to January 13, 1961, and are not to exceed 10% of the total stock optioned annually for seven years thereafter; the remaining 30% may be purchased during the eighth year.

Affiliation with

Honegger Farms Co., Inc.



DR. GEORGE GODFREY, Vice-President and Assistant General Manager, joined Honegger Farms Co. in 1955 as Geneticist and Director of Research. In 1956, he was named Executive Director of the Breeder Hatchery Division and promoted to his present position during June, 1958. Nationally recognized in the field of poultry genetics, Dr. Godfrey came to Honeggers' with a background steeped in scientific poultry breeding techniques and genetic research. He has authored or co-authored more than 30 scientific papers and written numerous popular articles on poultry subjects. Since he became affiliated with Honeggers', the number of associate hatcheries producing Honegger Layers has doubled and chick production has been increased similarly.

The Breeder Hatchery Operation

To supply its dealers with an outstanding chick for "complete package" selling, Honeggers' & Co., Inc. is affiliated with Honegger Farms Co., Inc., producers of the nationally famous Honegger Layer. With Headquarters at the 600-acre Honegger Research Farm near Forrest, Ill., the "Farms Company" was split off into a separate corporation in 1953.

In addition to its hatchery operations, Honegger Farms Co., Inc., operates retail farm service stores at Fairbury and Forrest, as well as a custom feed mill.

Several years ago, after testing well over 100 strain-cross combinations, a new Honegger Layer was introduced to poultrymen across the country. This outstanding layer met with considerable success and produced outstanding profits for poultrymen.

Since then Honegger geneticists have improved the original strain cross through the process of reciprocal recurrent selection—breeding the parental lines for increased "nickability". Several generations of this type of selection have resulted in an even better bird today, the 1961 model Honegger Layer—a superior egg producer which will yield greater profits for the poultryman under almost all management conditions.

Any model Honegger Layer is put through one of the most thorough testing programs in the poultry industry. It is tested and retested on Honeggers' 600-acre central research farm. Then it is sent to the field for more stiff testing under varying farm management conditions. Honegger Layers have proven themselves truly superior.

Associate Hatchery Plan

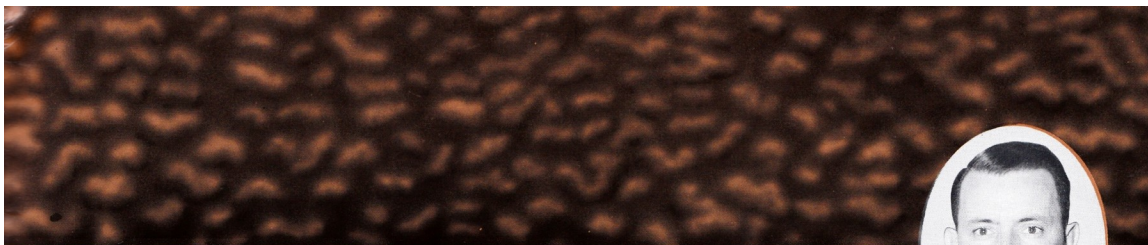
Although Honegger Chix are distributed exclusively by Honeggers' & Co. dealers through the mid-west and parts of the east, the demand for this outstanding bird has reached international proportions. Foreseeing the importance of strong, national brand acceptance and localized service, Honeggers' launched its "associate hatchery plan" in 1952 with the formation of its Associate Hatchery Department. Independently-owned hatcheries were authorized to hatch and sell Honegger Layers in assigned territories. These carefully screened associate hatcheries are furnished with foundation breeding stock direct from Forrest each year.

The Associate Hatchery plan appealed to hatcherymen. They got a nationally famous laying bird and were able to invest more time and money in better production and customer service. The most difficult and expensive tasks—research, advertising, and promotion—are handled more effectively and, on a per chick basis, far more economically by Honeggers' than would be possible by the individual hatcheryman.

Through the years, Honegger layers have compiled a remarkable record in official standard egg laying tests, random sample tests, and in farm performance tests. Honegger Layers entered in the Standard Florida National Egg Laying Test won the 1956 National Championship producing 305 eggs per pullet housed in 350 days with 100% livability. In 1957-58 and in 1958-59 official random sample tests Honegger Layers returned over three dollars per bird over feed and chick costs. In current tests Honegger Layers continue their outstanding performance. For example, Honegger Layers won first place in the 3rd Tennessee random sample test completed in March, 1960.



DR. CLETIS WILLIAMS, Poultry Geneticist for Honegger Breeder Hatchery, joined the company in October, 1956. Working with Dr. Godfrey, Williams is responsible for the fantastically complex mating program through which foundation birds are improved each year to make better Honegger Layers available to poultrymen year after year. Dr. Williams has authored more than a dozen scientific papers, half of them in collaboration with Dr. Godfrey while both were on the same team in Oklahoma. Their teamwork at Honeggers' has produced equally significant progress for the poultry industry, with Honegger Layers averaging ten more eggs per bird since these two scientists joined the company staff.



DR. W. GREGORY CLARK, General Manager of Honeggers' newly established International Division, joined the company in November, 1959. Clark is responsible for sales and technical service of the Honegger Layer in all areas of the world except the United States and Canada. Dr. Clark has a V.M.D. degree from the University of Pennsylvania and has had further training in poultry pathology at Oregon State College and at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. He has been in charge of poultry diagnostic laboratories at Tunkhannock, Pennsylvania, and in Havana, Cuba. Recently, Clark managed a large commercial egg production farm in New Jersey. He has done considerable traveling and is conversant in several languages.



In recently completed farm performance tests 22 flocks of the 1961 model Honegger Layer averaged 255 eggs per bird for twelve months of lay; 7 flocks under good management averaged 266 eggs per bird for twelve months of lay.

The official egg laying contests, conducted with U.S.D.A. sanction by various state agricultural colleges, have convinced poultrymen that chicks are worth little more than the research behind them. The exceptional standings of Honegger Layers, and resourceful exploitation of their championships in these competitive demonstrations plus their outstanding performance on farms across the country have put the spotlight of national prominence on Honegger Layers.

As a result of the proven profitability of Honegger Layers the demand for Honegger Chix has increased greatly. Thus the fruits of intensive and expensive research have paid off. Honeggers' strong emphasis on research and an early start in establishing its associate hatchery program have been responsible for the phenomenal growth of Honegger Farms Co.

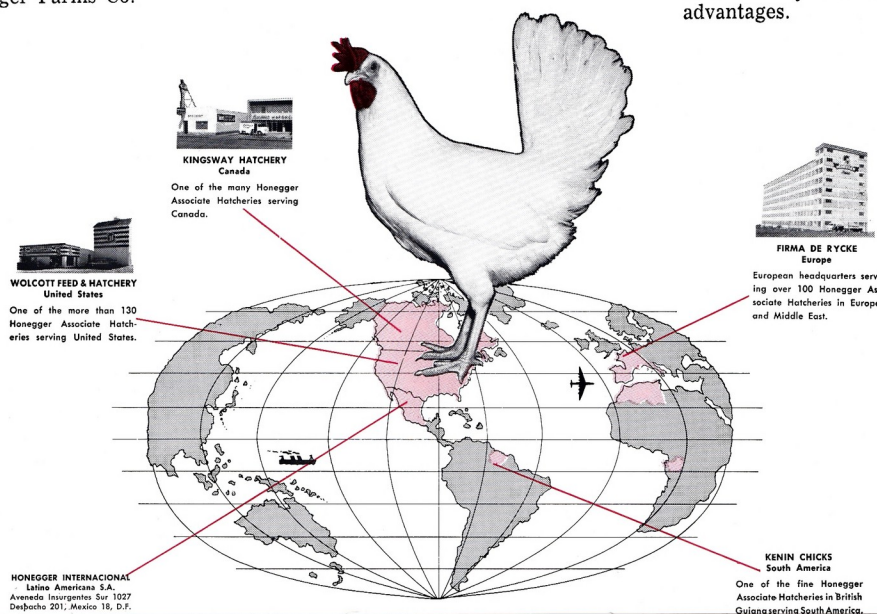
Honegger Chix Continue in Good Demand

Sales were down for the year because of depressed egg prices but were above the industry average. Honegger Layers are now produced by 237 Associate Hatcheries in 18 countries of the world located on four continents.

Far from resting on past laurels, the research and breeding program, to produce an even better bird, continues day and night. For example, their research budget for 1960-61 is nearly \$250,000.00; it includes work with more than 100,000 pedigreed chicks from 500 individual male matings, more than 25,000 trapnested layers, and about 22,000 layers being tested in 62 different locations.

Each year progress is made. Each year Honeggers' goal of 300 eggs per bird and 95% livability gets closer.

Cooperation between Honeggers' & Co., Inc. and Honegger Farms Co., Inc., lowers selling, advertising, sales promotion, public relations, and other costs for both firms and results in many other mutual advantages.





Honeggers'



Feed • Chicks • Farm Buildings • Equipment



HONEGGERS'

DEDICATED TO AN IMPROVED
ANIMAL AGRICULTURE

NO OTHER FIRM HAS ITS ROOTS MORE DEEPLY
IMPLANTED IN THE GOOD EARTH NOR ITS IN-
TERESTS MORE CLOSELY TIED TO THE WELFARE
OF PRACTICAL FARMING.

Better Feed for Better Food ...at Less Cost

Chapter 20

Computer Pioneers

Our smart phones today have more computing power than the Apollo moon missiles did. It is hard to imagine how primitive the early computers were.

The first computers used by businesses were called “main frames”. They were called this because the computer was a very large piece of equipment that was housed in a steel frame.

Many early computer programs were written using a language called FORTRAN. Below is a typical FORTRAN. program written circa 1973.

Simple Fortran IV program [\[edit \]](#)

Multiple data card input

This program has two input checks: one for a blank card to indicate end-of-data, and the other for a zero value within the input data. Either condition causes a message to be [printed](#).

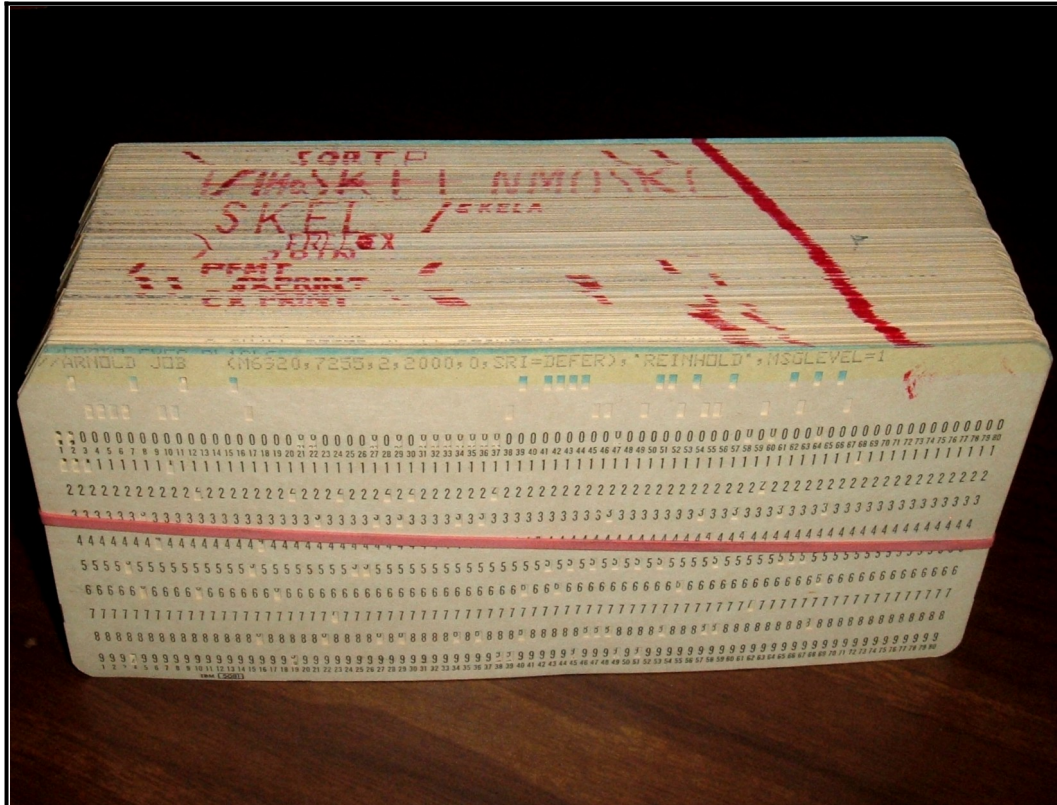
```
C AREA OF A TRIANGLE - HERON'S FORMULA
C INPUT - CARD READER UNIT 5, INTEGER INPUT, ONE BLANK CARD FOR END-OF-DATA
C OUTPUT - LINE PRINTER UNIT 6, REAL OUTPUT
C INPUT ERROR DISPLAY ERROR MESSAGE ON OUTPUT
501 FORMAT(3I5)
601 FORMAT(4H A= ,I5,5H B= ,I5,5H C= ,I5,8H AREA= ,F10.2,
      $13H SQUARE UNITS)
602 FORMAT(10HNORMAL END)
603 FORMAT(23HINPUT ERROR, ZERO VALUE)
      INTEGER A,B,C
10 READ(5,501) A,B,C
      IF(A.EQ.0 .AND. B.EQ.0 .AND. C.EQ.0) GO TO 50
      IF(A.EQ.0 .OR. B.EQ.0 .OR. C.EQ.0) GO TO 90
      S = (A + B + C) / 2.0
      AREA = SQRT( S * (S - A) * (S - B) * (S - C) )
      WRITE(6,601) A,B,C,AREA
      GO TO 10
50 WRITE(6,602)
   STOP
90 WRITE(6,603)
   STOP
END
```

The program was written first. Then the input data was listed line by line after the program lines.

The next step was to go to a keypunch machine. Each line in the program was typed into the keyboard. The keypunch machine then made punches or holes in the cards. After you punched all the cards, you had a “deck” of computer cards.



A deck of punched computer cards are shown below.



Once the deck of cards had been keypunched, the deck was ready to be fed into a compiler machine. The compiler would convert the FORTRAN commands into a machine language the computer could understand.

After the program was compiled, it could be run on a main frame computer, and the output would be printed onto computer paper. Honeggers' actually used some computers that were available before the iconic IBM 360 main frame computer was available. A typical IBM 360 main frame is shown below.



As computers were developed, the computer companies started to also provide standard programs that most businesses needed. If a standard program was utilized, the input data from a particular company still had to be keypunched on paper computer cards.

Forrest Hatcheries Had Computers First

Honeggers' Employee Ron Schlipf recalls that he had to travel to the Computer Department in Forrest to receive his first training on the computers. He recalls the Fairbury Computer Department had to wait until their facility was built and the computers delivered before it could begin operations.

Honeggers' Feed Mix

Through research, optimum feed formulations were developed for different kinds of livestock. A particular kind of feed could be derived from mixing up to 20 different ingredients. Each of these ingredients had an optimum range as a percent of the total amount of feed.

Most of the feed ingredients had a cost that changed daily on the world commodity markets.

If we assume a simple case of only two ingredients, we can illustrate the problem of determining the lowest cost feed that still meets the performance requirements of the animals.

Ingredient	Minimum Percentage	Max Percentage	Cost per bushel	Optimum Ingredients	Feed Cost per Bushel	Cost of 10,000 Bushels of Feed
Ingredient #1	70%	80%	\$4.00	80%	\$4.20	\$42,000
Ingredient #2	20%	40%	\$5.00	20%		

In this simple example, the optimum feed mix would be to use Ingredient #1 for 80% of the feed and only 20% of the Ingredient #2.

Now, let's assume the prices change for both ingredients and we keep the same 80:20 ratio of ingredients.

Ingredient	Minimum Percentage	Max Percentage	Cost per bushel	Optimum Ingredients	Feed Cost per Bushel	Cost of 10,000 Bushels of Feed
Ingredient #1	70%	80%	\$4.00	80%	\$4.20	\$42,000
Ingredient #2	20%	40%	\$5.00	20%		
Ingredient #1	70%	80%	\$4.50	80%	\$4.45	\$44,500
Ingredient #2	20%	40%	\$4.25	20%		

Now, let us adjust the 80:20 ratio to reflect the impact of the changes in price of the ingredients.

Ingredient	Minimum Percentage	Max Percentage	Cost per bushel	Optimum Ingredients	Feed Cost per Bushel	Cost of 10,000 Bushels of Feed
Ingredient #1	70%	80%	\$4.00	80%	\$4.20	\$42,000
Ingredient #2	20%	40%	\$5.00	20%		
Ingredient #1	70%	80%	\$4.50	80%	\$4.45	\$44,500
Ingredient #2	20%	40%	\$4.25	20%		
Ingredient #1	70%	80%	\$4.50	60%	\$4.40	\$44,000
Ingredient #2	20%	40%	\$4.25	40%		

By adjusting the ratio from 80:20 to 60:40, we can save \$500 (\$44,500 - \$44,000) in feed cost for every 10,000 bushels of feed we manufacture. This is increased profit for the company.

It is relatively easy to hand calculate the optimum ingredient ratio if there are only two ingredients. It becomes almost impossible to calculate if there are 20 different ingredients.

During World War II, the government planners had a complex problem trying to optimize the use of their resources during the war. A mathematical concept called linear programming was developed to be able to optimize any problem that has many different variables.

After the end of World War II, many industries adopted the use of linear programming to solve their complex problems. Linear programming also required the use of computers to perform the many calculations required.

Honeggers' & Co. Inc. adopted the use of linear programming to solve their problem of determining the optimum mix of ingredients for their feed. Early computers like the IBM 360 were very expensive. For example, in the 1970s, the University of Illinois could only afford to purchase one IBM 360 main frame computer to service the entire campus.

Honeggers could afford to buy the keypunch machine. Computer technicians punched the deck of cards for the program. The actual program to optimize the feed mix never changed and could be re-used. The price changes of the ingredients did change and new data cards had to be punched and placed at the back of the deck behind the program cards.

Since Honeggers could not justify purchasing their own IBM 360 main frame computer, they rented computer time from a company in the Chicago suburbs. Once a week, several Honeggers employees would drive the newly punched deck of cards to the suburban company. They would wait while the deck was run through the computer and the print-

outs of the optimum feed mixes were made. They would then drive the computer print-outs back to the mill in Fairbury. For the next week, the feed mill would use the print-out to make the optimum mix of feeds.

Honeggers also sold some of their computer resources to other Fairbury groups. For example, Honeggers would print out the mailing labels for all the Blade newspapers mailed to customers. The Honeggers' computer department also printed class schedules for the Fairbury-Cropsey High School. They also did payroll for the Pittsburgh Tube plant on Route 24 east of Fairbury.

Chapter 21

Mr. Pig Popper the Flying Pig

Honeggers' Pig Popper Hog Feed

Honeggers' & Co. Inc. developed a catchy name for their hog feed. They called it "Pig Popper". They even filed a U.S. trademark for the term Pig Popper.

Below is a typical advertisement for Pig Popper hog feed.

*FILL UP OUR HOPPER
WITH HONEGGER'S POPPER,
AND EARLY TO MARKET WE'LL GO.*

*Get your
pigs to
market early
with*

**HONEGGER'S
PIG POPPER**

**FOR A "WORLD'S RECORD"
ON YOUR OWN FARM**

YES! Here in supplement form, ready to feed on your own farm with your own grains are the nutrients — blended proteins, vitamins, and minerals which farmers need, but cannot raise. It's now available, fortified with the original ANI-PRO12.

Honeggers
**BIG-
H
FEEDS**

Fortified with the original Ani-Pro12

GET YOUR FREE COPY, NOW!

The American Foundation for Animal Health says, "Pigs suffering from latent infection and parasites or pigs which are not receiving a balanced diet may develop a fatal over-reaction to vaccination."

Honeggers' new free "Better Pigs" booklet will help you save more pigs. Pick up a copy at your nearest Honegger dealer or write.

Better Pigs

Join the Ani-Pro Early Pig Club

BETTER FEEDS — BETTER SERVICE — BETTER PRICES

HONEGGER'S & COMPANY, Inc.
FAIRBURY & FORREST, ILLINOIS
OHIO & EAST—CONTACT—HONEGGER-HANLEY MILLS, INC., MANSFIELD, OHIO

AUGUST, 1951—127

Youngest Girl to Win Hog Showing Competition Gains National Fame

In December of 1960, nine year old Colleen Callahan became the youngest person to win at the International Livestock Show in Chicago. Her hog was selected as the Grand Champion barrow.

The December 8, 1960, Blade published a story about Honeggers' & Co., Inc. purchasing this hog.

\$4,715 Pig Given Red Carpet Treatment Here

The highest priced pig in the world, the Grand Champion barrow of the International Livestock Show in Chicago, arrived in Fairbury Friday afternoon to attend Honeggers' general sales meeting.

The pig's former owner, 9-year-old Colleen Callahan of Milford, with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Callahan, accompanied the pig.

Colleen and her pig had been flown from Chicago to Milford earlier in the day where she was met by the Mayor and the President of the Civic Council who presented her with a beautiful wristwatch on behalf of the city of Milford.

Her school had been dismissed and all of her classmates were at the airport with large placards proclaiming their affection for their little heroine.

However, Mr. Pig Popper, as he lumbered from the airplane, which was flown from Chicago by E. F. Dickey of Honeggers, seemed to be rather unimpressed by the welcoming ceremony. After all, he had attended quite a large press party for radio, television, newspaper, and magazine editors at the Palmer House in Chicago the evening before, and appeared to be coming quite a bit weary over the whole thing.

MR. POPPER, in attending the general sales meeting, had a delightful dinner at the Honegger House consisting of Pig Popper, shelled corn and mineral, while the other patrons had to be satisfied with ham and beef. Mr. Herzog said that while Pig Popper was not a regular item on the menu, it was a policy of the restaurant to provide special dishes for discriminating guests.

She said that the more than \$5,000 which she received from the sale of her pig to Honeggers and from the prize money from the Chicago show had to go into the bank for her college education.

During the afternoon Colleen visited the workmen at Honegger's mill where the feed for her pig was made and called on several businessmen.

OFFICIALS OF THE National Bank of Fairbury were so enthusiastic upon meeting Colleen and the fact that a local firm had furnished the feed for the grand champion barrow of the world, that they asked that the pig be displayed in their bank all day on Saturday where it was viewed by literally hundreds of people.

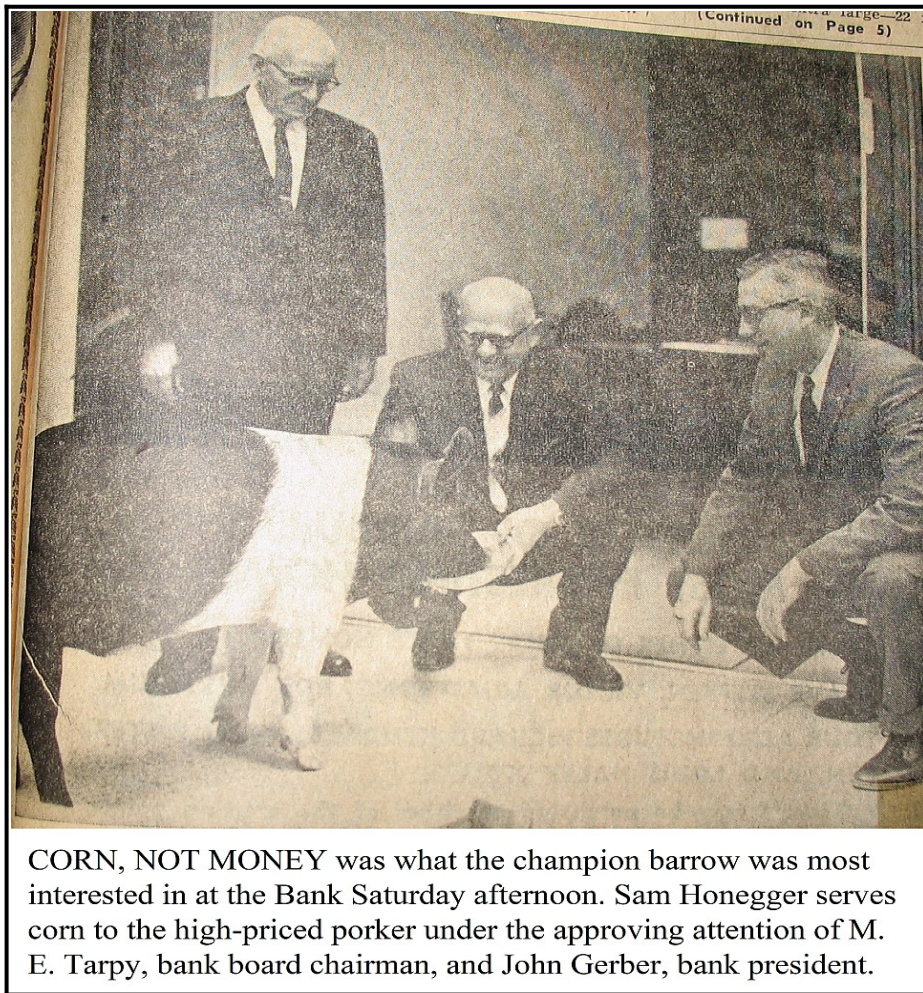
Colleen is the youngest exhibitor ever to win an international championship at the world-wide event held each year in Chicago. She likes to point out that the \$23.00 per pound which she received for her pig was \$8.00 more per pound than that which was paid for the grand champion steer.

Honegger officials say that they purchased the pig in order that they might display the superior animal to youth groups interested in agriculture throughout several states as a means of stimulating a greater interest in scientific feeding methods.

While Honeggers paid \$4,715 for the pig, their officials claim that such encouragement to the youth of our farm families is, in their opinion, a solid investment in the future of animal agriculture. Honegger officials go on to point out that the farm youth of today will be our superior farmers of tomorrow, and that Honeggers like to feel that the unusual feeding records and performance of today will be the standards of tomorrow.

E. F. Dickey of Honeggers', in speaking before the sales meeting, and that his company did not feel that prize winning animals displayed by 4-H, FFA, and other youngsters in our international livestock shows should wind up as fancy meat dishes in night clubs and saloons. He went on to say that business firms should join hands in displaying these champion animals far and wide as an evidence of the opportunities for young people in animal agriculture.

Colleen showed six pigs in all at the International and won nine ribbons. Her two pigs entered in the dressed carcass competition won 2rd and 3rd place out of 74 entries.



CORN, NOT MONEY was what the champion barrow was most interested in at the Bank Saturday afternoon. Sam Honegger serves corn to the high-priced porker under the approving attention of M. E. Tarpy, bank board chairman, and John Gerber, bank president.

The \$4,715 that Honeggers paid for this pig would be equivalent to \$40,425 in today's dollars.

Visits to Other Cities in the Midwest

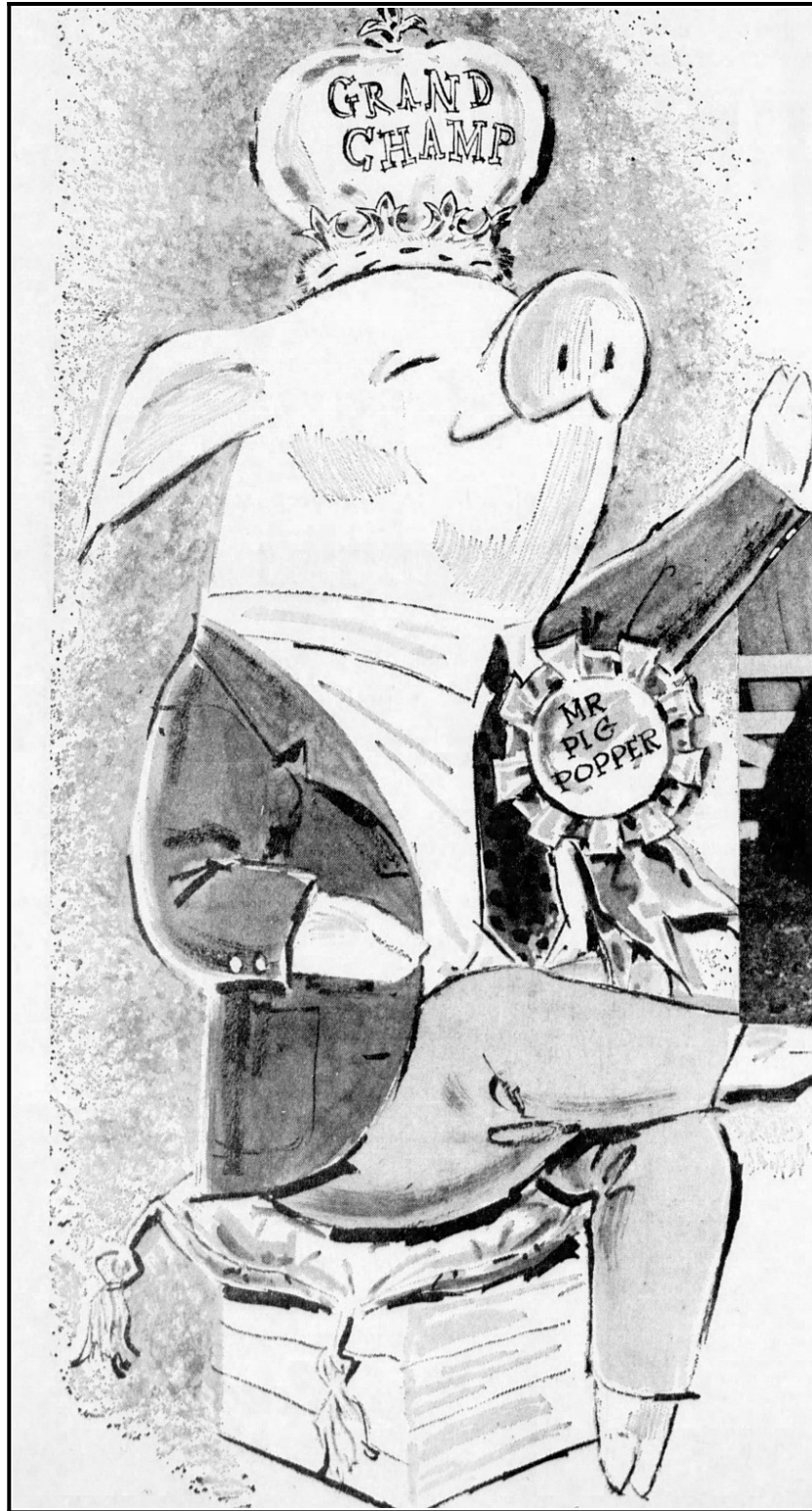
Honeggers flew Mr. Pig Popper and Colleen to Lincoln, Nebraska. In their local paper, Gold's Cafeteria took out a full page advertisement announcing that Colleen and Mr. Pig Popper would be visiting their city. The advertisement is too large to accurately show in this book format. Selected portions of the advertisement are shown below.

You're Invited to See Mr. Pig Popper

GRAND CHAMPION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK
EXPOSITION...CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

*Come See Mr. Pig Popper Himself
at Gold's on Saturday, January 28*

Mr. Pig Popper, accompanied by his former owner, Miss Colleen Rae Callahan, age 9, will be on Gold's 3rd floor all day Saturday. The Honegger Company purchased Mr. Pig Popper from Colleen at the highest price ever paid for a Hampshire barrow, \$23 per pound. They are showing him around the country in an effort to increase youths' interest in livestock raising and feeding. Gold's is happy to participate in this program and again exercise our interest in 4-H and FFA affairs.





HOW DID MR. PIG POPPER BECOME AN INTERNATIONAL GRAND CHAMPION?

...through the conscientious care of little Colleen Callahan who raised the litter of 8 pigs of which Mr. Pig Popper is one. Colleen's mother said that in typical 4-H fashion, Colleen, a 4th grader, had taken care of her pigs first thing every night after school. Her father, a field representative for Chicago Stockyards and Transit Company was away from home so much of the time that full responsibility for the little pigs rested with Colleen and her mother. Through her excellent work Colleen, on her first attempt became the youngest exhibitor ever to win a national championship at the world's greatest livestock exhibition. The prize money and money she received from the sale of Mr. Pig Popper will eventually be put to the worthy use of financing Colleen's college education.

Mr. Pig Popper and Colleen also flew to Cedar Rapids, Iowa and Mayfield, Kentucky.

Other Photographs of Colleen and Mr. Pig Popper





Colleen Callahan

That young nine year old girl went on to a very interesting life focused on agriculture. Her biography from her web site at <http://ColleenCallahan.com> is shown below.

Colleen has an early start learning how to communicate. Her story began on a purebred Hampshire hog, Angus cattle and grain farm near Milford, Illinois. As the newspaper headline read, "9-year-old- Wins Swine Award on First Try". Colleen was that 9-year old and the youngest exhibitor of a Grand Champion at the International Live Stock Exhibition in Chicago. It was just the beginning of many firsts to come.

But being a member of the Future Farmers of America (FFA) was not one of them! Despite her agricultural background and experiences, Colleen was not granted FFA membership. Women weren't permitted to join FFA until the month after Colleen graduated from high school.

However, another first almost coincided when, during her first semester at the University of Illinois, Colleen earned membership on the State 4-H Livestock Judging Team, becoming the first female to ever make the team.

Colleen pioneered her way to broadcasting as the first woman Agribusiness Director for WMBD Radio and Television in Peoria, Illinois, a position she held for 30 years. She continued to break barriers serving as the first female president of the National Association of Farm Broadcasting and was the first woman inducted into their Hall of Fame. Shortly after starting her own communications firm, Colleen was invited by Secretary of Agriculture Anne Veneman to accompany her to the war zone in Afghanistan and Iraq. Colleen's commitment to public service inspired her run for United States Congress in 2008. Colleen describes the experience as "Not Winning Doesn't Mean Losing!"

Public service became a reality, though, when Colleen accepted a Presidential appointment to become the State Director of USDA Rural Development in Illinois. During her tenure, Colleen oversaw a 20% reduction in staffing while still being able to generate a \$1 billion increase in the Illinois loan portfolio. "By focusing on staff development, creating work teams, and developing a curriculum for communications training, Colleen brought back happiness to the workplace." The positive impact was so well noticed that Colleen was asked to replicate the training in other Rural Development state offices and ultimately in Washington, D.C. Now, Colleen looks forward to continuing to do what she does best... communicating!

Membership on the Chicago Board of Trade

Per the Evelsizer 1969 Thesis, in addition to the huge marketing program with Mr. Pig Popper in 1960, Honeggers' applied for and became a member of the Chicago Board of Trade.

Chapter 22

Lawsuits

Honeggers' & Co. Inc. became a large regional firm operating in many states with almost 500 employees. The United States is known as a litigious society. As a corporation grows in size and types of business activities, the likelihood of lawsuits increases. Two lawsuits against Honeggers' & Co. Inc. were found using Internet searches.

1967 Honeggers Hog Building Lawsuit

Honeggers constructed a hog building on the farm of Ernest L. Winter in Iowa. Mr. Winter's hogs started to get sick after they were put into the new building. Mr. Winter sued Honeggers and won the case. Honeggers appealed, but the appellate court sided with Mr. Winter. In legal parlance, this case is known as Ernest L. Winter versus Honeggers' & Co., Inc.

A description of the case from the appeals court is shown below.

Ernest L. Winter, a Clarke County farmer engaged primarily in the production and sale of hogs for breeding stock, purchased from defendant Honeggers' & Co., Inc., a confinement hog farrowing house known as a "Thrive Center" designed and manufactured by defendant with a 24-sow capacity. Defendant erected the facility on plaintiff's farm in time for its use in July 1967.

Plaintiff had started in a disease control program on breeding stock known as SPF in 1965 by purchasing some gilts and a boar from accredited herds. The initials stand for "Specific Pathogen Free." It is a group that has been founded to administer a program for the control of the two chronic respiratory diseases of swine, atrophic rhinitis and the chronic mycoplasmal pneumonia formerly called virus pneumonia.

From the record we learn that atrophic rhinitis is a transmissible wasting of the delicate turbinate of the nasal cavity. The actual tissue changes are primarily a stunting and a resorption of this delicate, scroll-like bone and a failure of the development to a limited extent of the denser bones that make up the nasal cavity.

Another witness tells us that atrophic rhinitis is a disease of the hog; the nose is infected with organisms and as a result of that infection, there may be damage to the internal bones called turbinates, and the lining of those bones to a varying degree will erode away or be reabsorbed and thereby cause problems in filtering out the air as it passes through the nose into the lungs. Rhinitis is normally associated with a decrease in rate of gain in the efficiency with which market hogs being fed for slaughter will convert feed into gain. They are usually more susceptible to secondary respiratory infections. It is caused only by a disease

organism known as bordetella. There is a difference of opinion among experts here as to whether there is a distinction between infectious atrophic rhinitis and atrophic rhinitis.

We understand that to become an accredited SPF hog herd, the swine must go either through the laboratory at Manilla, Iowa, (which procedure is not relevant here) or be purchased as SPF accredited stock. The swine must be tested for Brucellosis and a veterinarian must make a quarterly report in regard to health and disease. He makes visual inspection to determine the problems, if any, the farmer is having with his herd, what type of precautions he takes on his farm and what visitor control he might have. This report is sent to the national office in Conrad, Iowa.

It is further required that after the herd is started and sows farrow and the litter is brought along, 10 head of butcher hogs must be taken to slaughter for visual inspection before any can be sold. If they pass visually, they are then accredited. Following the August 26, 1965, slaughter check plaintiff was checked again February 23, 1966, and passed. He was rechecked and passed August 10, 1966, January 26, 1967, and again August 2, 1967. There were 10 hogs slaughter checked each date at a Des Moines slaughter house by Dr. Spear who made most of the visual inspections. None of these swine were farrowed in the Honeggers' Thrive Center farrowing house.

Plaintiff first experienced difficulty January 25, 1968, after his swine went for slaughter check and failed because of damage to the turbinates. This was visually diagnosed by Dr. Spear as atrophic rhinitis and caused Winter to lose his SPF accreditation for approximately four months. He also received "bad checks" in November 1968 and May 1969.

January 25, 1968, plaintiff's accreditation was suspended. After reinstatement his accreditation was again suspended November 13, 1968, when Dr. Spear diagnosed atrophic rhinitis in some of the carcasses. After again being reinstated plaintiff's accreditation was fully revoked in May 1969 as a direct result of the diagnosis atrophic rhinitis by Dr. Spear in certain carcasses of animals slaughtered from plaintiff's herd. The hogs involved in the slaughter checks in January, November and May had been farrowed in the Honegger building. April 22, 1970, after depopulation and repopulation plaintiff's herd was re-accredited and remained accredited at the time of trial.

December 16, 1970, plaintiff filed a petition in four divisions. He separately alleged causes of action based upon: (1) implied warranty; (2) express warranty; (3) negligence; and (4) strict liability. Defendant in answer to each division admitted some allegations and denied others. At the conclusion of all evidence the cause was submitted to the jury on the issues of breach of implied warranty and breach of express warranty.

Plaintiff's theory of recovery as asserted in the two divisions of the petition submitted to the jury is based on the contention his accreditation was lost because of the presence of atrophic rhinitis in his herd; that the environmental conditions of the thrive center were a cause, or at least a contributing cause, of the hog disease and his damage.

In support of his theory plaintiff offered evidence that the design, construction and instruction for use of the ventilating system installed by defendant for use in the thrive center were defective permitting a build-up and accumulation of deleterious gases in the facility, a by-product of the hog waste which dropped through the slatted floor into a concrete manure pit directly under the hog house. These gases would include ammonia, carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, nitrogen dioxide, hydrogen sulphide and methane gas, none of which were beneficial to the hogs.

Plaintiff and his veterinarian experienced irritating odors which produced a burning sensation in the nostrils, respiratory discomfort and even nausea when working in the thrive center facility before modification of the ventilation system by plaintiff.

As the facility was initially constructed, the three ventilating fans were activated by thermostats and the only heat source other than the heat given off by the hogs themselves was from 12 3000 BTU heaters. The building is essentially air-tight. However, in the winter the temperature would not rise sufficiently in the facility to activate the fans because of insufficient heat source. The louvers on the ventilators would ice over in the winter. There also was excessive moisture built up in the facility.

After plaintiff's hogs developed the rhinitis problem, he modified the ventilation system by installing a 75,000 BTU heater and activating the fans by means of a time clock in addition to the thermostats. This modification alleviated the ventilation problems.

1971 Michigan Amputated Leg Lawsuit

A truck driver delivered a load of corn gluten to a Honegger's feed mill in Michigan. Something went wrong, and the truck driver got his leg caught in an auger. The leg of the truck driver had to be amputated. The truck driver sued Honeggers and won. Honeggers appealed the case, but the appellate court said the original verdict for the truck driver was correct.

In legal parlance, this case is known as *Carreras v. Honeggers Co.* A description of this case from the appeals court is shown below.

On June 1, 1971, plaintiff Robert Carreras, who was then employed as a truck driver, delivered to the defendant's mill a load of corn gluten. Plaintiff on direction of Kenneth Johnson, an employee of the defendant, positioned his truck so as to dump his load into a metal hopper designed to receive the load. At the bottom of the hopper there was a rotating screw auger approximately 10 inches in diameter which carried the material out of the hopper and into the defendant's building. The front end of the truck was elevated so as to dump the load out a small door in the tailgate.

The unloading went smoothly at first, but after a short time the gluten ceased to flow. Plaintiff explained to Mr. Johnson that this was because the cohesive mass had settled in transit. After several attempts to free the load plaintiff decided to climb into the truck with a shovel. He tossed the shovel over the side of the truck intending to follow it in to free the load. However, the shovel bounced around and fell out the open door at the rear end of the truck and into the hopper, jamming the auger.

Plaintiff told Mr. Johnson to shut off the power to the auger. Johnson when deposed testified that he pushed four buttons to stop the machinery and informed the plaintiff that the conveyor had been shut off.

Plaintiff asked for and received confirmation from Johnson that the power was off, then climbed into the hopper with a crowbar supplied by Johnson. Johnson was then sent to find a light for the plaintiff. Plaintiff's efforts to free the shovel were successful, however, when the shovel popped free the auger blade began to turn again, amputating plaintiff's left leg above the knee.

In plaintiff's action for negligence a jury returned a verdict of \$500,000 in favor of Mr. Carreras and \$50,000 in favor of his wife the co-plaintiff.

Chapter 23

Honegger Trucking

Honeggers' & Co. Inc. owned and maintained several semi-trucks which delivered feed to states in the Midwest.

Marvin Roth and Chuck Wells

The photo below has Honegger truck drivers Chuck Wells on the left side and Marvin Roth on the right side.



Marvin Roth Driving in Kentucky



Painting by Kentucky Artist

Marvin Roth would usually stop at the same restaurant each time he made a trip to Kentucky. A woman at the restaurant painted a picture of his Honeggers' truck and gave the painting to Marvin.



Safety Record

There are several Blade articles where the drivers of the Honeggers' trucks were given awards for their safe driving record.

Chapter 24

Founders Ready for Retirement

Many businesses end when the first generation founders reach retirement age or die.

By the year 1968, Frank Honegger was 67 years old and Sam Honegger was 63 years old. Both of these gentlemen were at or near the conventional retirement age of 65.

Honeggers' & Co. Inc. became a publicly owned corporation in 1958. It is unknown what percentage of the company stock was owned by the founders.

On November 12, 1968, the Petroleum Resources Corp. made a tender offer for the outstanding shares of stock in Honeggers' & Company.

The November 14, 1968, Blade, published a story about this tender offer.

Montana Firm Seeks Honegger's Controls

Petroleum Resources Tenders Offer

Petroleum Resources Corporation, Billings, Montana, today issued a cash tender offer for common stock of Honeggers' & Co. Inc., Fairbury, it was announced jointly by Petroleum Resources President Robert Burns, and Honeggers' Chairman, Sam R. Honegger.

The PRC offer provides for the payment of \$5.50 for each Honeggers' common share tendered with the qualifications that Petroleum Resources Corporation will accept not less than 165,330 shares or 51 percent, and will accept up to 194,510 shares, or 60 percent, of the approximately 312,534 shares outstanding.

If more than 194,510 shares are tendered, the shares to be purchased will be accepted on a pro-rata basis. The PRC offer is effective as of November 13, 1968, and terminates December 4, 1968, it was announced.

Petroleum Resources Corporation recently launched an aggressive acquisition policy after controlling interest was purchased in August, 1968, by a group of investors headed by Chicago financier, Victor Nemeroff. Petroleum Resources produces crude oil in Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado and also operates the Diamond Asphalt Company in Montana. The company has about 6,500 shareholders. Its stock is traded over the counter.

Honeggers', established in 1946, is one of the nation's major manufacturers and distributors of livestock feed and feed supplements under the trade name "BigH." It has 16 manufacturing, distributing or grain handling facilities located between Lincoln, Nebraska, and Huntington, West Virginia.

The company has about 1,000 shareholders.

Honegger sales were \$13.9 million for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1968, and the firm showed a net loss for the period of \$543,000, after showing a net profit of \$153,765 the previous year.

Their net worth at June 30, 1968, was \$3.3 million.

In the first quarter of 1968-69, Honeggers' had sales of \$2.6 million and a net loss of \$36,000. PRC announced that no management changes at Honeggers' & Co. are contemplated and that it will, upon taking control, seek to evaluate and develop new areas of activity for the company in the agribusiness industry.

In concluding this offer to purchase Honegger stock, Burns stated "The purpose of this offer is to enable Petroleum to obtain working control of Honeggers. Petroleum has no present plans to acquire any additional shares of common stock of Honeggers and no present plans and has made no proposals to liquidate Honeggers, sell its assets, or to merge it with any other entity, or to make any other change in Honeggers' business or corporate structure.

Shares being tendered must be sent to Central National Bank in Chicago or to Millikin Trust Company in Decatur as forwarding agent. Petroleum will pay all applicable stock transfer taxes and the fees of the banks.

Honeggers employs 246 persons, 117 of them in Fairbury. Of the number in Fairbury, 57 persons are in the general offices and 60 in the mill.

Honeggers' president Clarence F. Bell was scheduled to announce the Petroleum offer to company employees in two meetings late Wednesday afternoon.

The same issue of the Blade published a story about the Thrive Center.

Name Lyle Honegger Thrive Center Veep

Lyle Honegger has been named vice-president of Thrive Center, Inc., Fairbury based leader in the confinement housing field for livestock. Honegger has been serving as general manager of the firm since it was purchased on June 30 by Tractor Supply company, Inc., of Chicago, from Honeggers' and Co., Inc., of Fairbury.

Announcement of Honegger's increased responsibility was made by Fred Colvin, TSC vice-president for marketing, during a recent picnic for Fairbury employees and their families, held at Lyle's Acres last week.

Thrive Center, operating in three sets of buildings in Fairbury, has 40 local employees.

Chapter 25

The Last 21 Years

The ownership of the company between the time when Petroleum Resources purchased the company in 1968 until the company ceased operations in 1989 is not easy to trace. The web site <http://www.barrone.net/babbs/nl5.htm> has some information about this time period. The original data on this web site was published in 1978.

The late 1960s were problem years financially. In fiscal 1968, the company lost a half million dollars. Late that year, Petroleum Resources Corp. (later called PRC and then Corterra) purchase the stock of Honeggers. PRC's only business until 1968 was oil and uranium, but it was driving to become a totally integrated food and protein company. With Honeggers as a base, PRC took aim at the egg market. It established three operating divisions: Honeggers (feed), Big H Food (pullet and egg production business) and Big H Country Farms (egg and poultry processing and marketing).

William Walker was installed as president of Honeggers in 1971. Rich Funk was named executive vice-president and treasurer.

In 1978, the 11 outlying feed mills represented about 20% of Honeggers' dollar-volume but tied up 40% of its working capital and generated about three-fourths of the internal paperwork. By liquidating operations, streamlining the office system, and reducing personnel by nearly two-thirds, the company reversed the financial picture. In the process of reorganizing, Honeggers lost a good portion of its feed business, on purpose.

Honegger feed had been sold in 10 states, as far east as Pennsylvania, up to the late 1960s. Its sales territory has since been pulled back from the eastern region. In 1978, Big H feed is manufactured at only four locations, Fairbury, Jasper, Indiana, Chelsea, Michigan, and Mt. Pleasant, Michigan.

Walker retired in 1974 and was succeeded by George Hawkins, who is credited with bringing back much of the feed business and making the company profitable. Honeggers sold its 240 acre research farm in 1971. In 1978, the company is now owned by the EHE Corp., a group of private investors.

Feed volume in 1978 accounts for more than \$10 million in annual sales which is about 50% of the firm's business. Grain, which has become increasingly important in the company's overall operation, accounts for the other 50%. Poultry feeds, which made up about 50% of the tonnage when Hawkins joined Honeggers, now accounts for only 20-25%. Hog feeds are the biggest part of the business now, with the trend toward more supplements and less complete feeds. Honeggers has been adding new product lines and can provide swine complexes to provide complete farrow to finish operations.

(June 30, 1989, after 60 years of business, Honeggers' & Co., Inc. ceased operations)

The October 2, 1975, Blade published an article about record profits at Honeggers.

Honeggers' Reports Record Net

Honeggers' & Co., Inc., Fairbury-based animal feed manufacturer and grain merchandiser, Tuesday announced a record net profit for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1975.

Net profit for the year was \$947,000 or \$3.02 per share, including a non-recurring gain of \$191,000 or \$.61 per share from the sale of assets and an extraordinary gain of \$444,000 or \$1.42 per share from utilization of an operating tax loss tax credit from prior years' operations.

This compares with net profit of \$189,000 or \$.60 per share including an \$84,000 tax credit, or \$.27 per share for the previous year. Revenues for these periods were \$11,500,000 and \$11,900,000 respectively.

Revenue figures do not include gross values of grain merchandised which was an additional \$10,700,000 and \$12,800,000 for fiscal 1975 and 1974 respectively.

George O. Hawkins, president, stated that the operating results were enhanced by inventory appreciation and operational efficiencies, exceptionally high sales price for grain grown by the company last fall, coupled with the aforementioned non-recurring gain and tax credit.

Hawkins added that the company was engaged in an aggressive program to upgrade and expand both its feed marketing and grain merchandising functions.

He called specific attention to the installation of a new grain dryer at the Fairbury facility and plans for additional dryer capacity that will give the company expanded capabilities for handling farmer's needs.

Hawkins declined to make any forecast of operating results for the current year. He did comment that rising costs, competitive pressures from lower demand for livestock feeds and smaller company grain plantings were all combining to reduce profit possibilities as compared to reduce profit possibilities as compared with the past year.

The company also stated that CorTerra Corporation, the majority shareholder, had sold its Honeggers' stock to EHE Company of Northbrook. EHE is a closely held private corporation.

The August 5, 1976, Blade, published the following story about EHE taking over Honeggers'.

Honeggers to Merge with EHE Co.

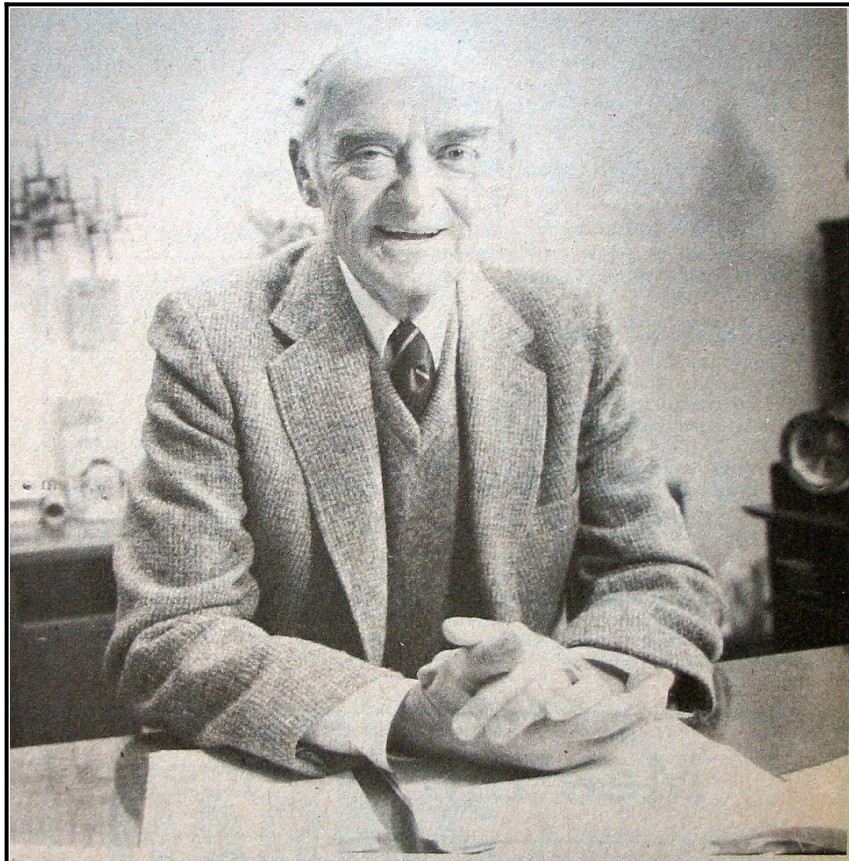
The Board of Directors of Honeggers & Co., Inc., Fairbury, today announced that it has agreed in principle to a plan whereby Honeggers would be merged with a newly formed 100% owned subsidiary of EHE Company, Northbrook. EHE Company now owns approximately 80.6% of Honeggers' issued and outstanding stock.

Under the terms of the proposed plan, the present shareholders of Honeggers, other than EHE, would be paid cash for their shares. The Board of Directors of Honeggers is entering into negotiations with EHE to determine the price to be paid to Honeggers' shareholders. Upon completion of the plan EHE Company would own 100% of the then issued and outstanding stock of Honeggers.

If the merger is consummated in accordance with the plan, Honeggers & Co. would be the surviving company and the officers and directors of Honeggers would continue to serve in their present capacities. The operation of Honeggers will be unaffected under the plan.

The plan is subject to the approval of the shareholders of Honeggers and its lending institutions and the approval of the Board of Directors of EHE company.

The January 10, 1985, Blade published a story about the President of Honeggers', George Hawkins.



RETIRING AS PRESIDENT of Honegger's Inc. Jan. 1, George Hawkins plans to remain with the company as a member of the board and a part-time consultant. He began his presidency at Honegger's in April of 1974 when he was asked to fill a vacancy for 90 days until the corporation could be sold. He worked to improve the company and turned those 90 days into 10 years.

Hired for 90-day Interim

Hawkins keeps top Honegger post 10 years

by Kim Kelly

In 1974, Honegger's Inc. made a momentous decision when it agreed not to sell its corporation, which was being headed by interim president George Hawkins.

Hawkins, who recently resigned as president of Honegger's, says he was originally hired for 90 days while a purchaser was sought for the business, owned then and now by EHE corporation, Northbrook. When the business suddenly seemed to be doing quite well, the decision was changed and Hawkins stayed on as president.

Why the sudden turn around?

Referring to a saying on a plaque, Hawkins jokes, "after all the careful planning and organizing, you can't beat dumb luck."

More seriously, he adds, "it was a fantastically successful year. Everything fell together. It was a good grain year and the feed business was good."

Noted for being a "crisis manager", Hawkins has helped other corporations get back into the black, including the former Hales and Hunter in Chicago, where he was vice-president and general manager of the feed division from 1965-69.

Devoted to agriculture and its development, Hawkins has spent a lifetime in the business. His venture began in 1947 in Antioch, where he owned and operated a baby chicken hatchery until 1952.

Then, in 1957, he accepted a job as a poultry specialist for FS services in Bloomington, one of his favorite jobs.

"I just loved the business. Then, in about two years, they made me general sales manager," he says. As a sales manager, Hawkins held schools to teach farmers how to raise chickens for maximum production, how to treat illnesses, and he developed a sales program that took him traveling all over Illinois.

From the sales manager position, he went on to Hales and Hunter, where he stayed for four years until it was sold to Cargill. From Chicago, he went to Omaha, Neb., where he worked for ConAgra Inc. as general manager of the Nixon feed division.

Honegger's in Fairbury was next. Serving as president of Honegger's has been the icing on the cake for George, who worked hard to earn his way to the top and has enjoyed every minute of it.

"Hard work was the thing in those days. Everybody thrived on it. My problem is I loved to work," he says.

During his career, he has made thousands of speeches and driven thousands of miles. Once he computed his mileage to be "well over a year back and forth to Fairbury," from Antioch, where he still makes his home.

But it has been worth it. He says he loves to give inspirational speeches to motivate farmers. There's also been national recognition for his efforts. He was

director of American Feed Manufacturers' association from 1978-82 and is also listed in Who's Who in America.

Over the years, George has seen many changes in the agricultural business, particularly the feed business, which is by far the most technical, according to Hawkins.

Also, the local picture has changed. Thirty years ago, he says, Livingston county farmers had livestock and there were more chickens in the county than any other in the state."

Today, the number of farmers who have livestock has declined, mostly due to mass production, he says. At Honeggers, the hog feed business is now first, dairy feed is second and poultry is third.

Hawkins is particularly proud that Honeggers has a reputation for making a high quality feed and has a staff of capable employees.

When it comes to selling, he says, "You don't sell the bag, you sell the company and the man." Thus, the reason for Honegger's slogan, "The Big H man serves you better because he knows you better."

And George Hawkins can definitely be classified as one of the H men, retired as president, but not from the company. He plans to stay on as a member of the board of directors and a part-time consultant.

"I expect to stay busy. I don't intend to sit around and dry up," he says.

The January 10, 1989, Pantagraph, published the following story.

Wholesale feed division

Fairbury's Honeggers sells business

By CHRIS ANDERSON Pantagraph farm editor

FAIRBURY — An Ohio manufacturer has purchased the feed division of Honeggers & Co. Inc. of Fairbury. Provico Inc. of Botkins, Ohio, has signed an agreement to buy Honeggers' wholesale feed business, including the Big H and Fortipac trademarks. Provico president Warren Loy said the purchase also includes Honeggers' feed mill, grain elevator and delivery trucks at Chelsea, Mich., and retail operations at Trail, Ohio, and Haysville, Ind.

On Feb. 6, the Fairbury company will begin conducting business as Honeggers Grain Co. Inc. According to executive vice president Richard Funk, the 56-year-old firm will cease wholesale feed manufacturing on Feb. 3. Honeggers will continue as a grain merchandising and retail feed supply business. The firm has 5 million bushels of grain storage capacity at facilities in Fairbury, Strawn, Emington and Cissna Park. Forty employees at the facilities will be retained, Funk said. Extruded soybean meal will continue to be manufactured at the Fairbury site, Funk said. Honeggers Grain will also retain a retail farm store in Alto, Mich.

"The sale of Honeggers' feed division makes a lot of sense for both companies," said Gailyn Thomsen, Honeggers president. "Provico has been expanding into more dealer sales, and the Honeggers dealer network was a natural fit. The availability of animal health and farm supplies through Provico will be an added benefit for current Honeggers dealers."

Most of Honeggers' sales and marketing staff will join 150 Provico employees. Thomsen will become Loy's assistant. "Several years ago, Gailyn and I had a conversation about joining small regional feed manufacturers into one business to improve efficiency and expand market areas," said Loy. "Last year, the conversation heated up."

Provico has served farmers in Ohio and parts of Indiana, Kentucky and West Virginia for 60 years. Originally specializing in dairy feed manufacture, the firm has grown to include swine and specialty feeds, health products and seed sales. The acquisition of Honeggers' feed division will expand Provico's territory into Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and Tennessee. About 55 Honeggers dealers will be added to an existing network of 350 dealers. Honeggers was founded by brothers Sam and Frank Honegger in 1933. The business began as a feed grinding facility south of Forrest.

The June 21, 1989, Blade, ran the first story about the closing of Honeggers' & Co., Inc.

Honeggers ends 60 years in agribusiness

by Judy Knauer

"We are going to close June 30," says Richard Funk, executive vice president and treasurer of Honeggers and Co. Inc., of Fairbury. Thirty employees of the home office in Fairbury will be released at that time.

Also closing June 30 will be R&R Grain, a division of Honeggers, located at Cissna Park.

The two remaining divisions of Honeggers, the Strawn elevator and Emington elevator, have been purchased by R.G. Grain Co. Current senior vice president of the grain division of Honeggers, Ron Groskreutz and Jack Trainor, owner of Trainor Grain in Forrest, are co-shareholders in R.G. Grain Co., which purchased the two elevators on June 12.

Operations (at the two elevator sites) will be run pretty much as it has in the past," said Groskreutz. The home office of the company is to be Strawn. No change in personnel at the two elevators is expected.

Honeggers and Co. was established in 1928 when Sam and Frank Honegger of Forrest began producing feed from a grinder-mixer for their neighbors' livestock. The brothers had been producing supplemental feed for their own dairy herd, using knowledge gained at the University of Illinois.

In the beginning of the feed operation, the brothers had to stop whatever they were doing to mix the feed, since the hammer-mill was driven by their only tractor. Later they moved their feed operation to an elevator at the corner of First and Locust streets in Fairbury. They also built a mill at the farm south of Forrest for the convenience of customers in that area.

In 1932, the brothers started into poultry with an 8' by 12' brooder house. They built that part of their business into what was at one time the nation's largest U.S. Certified hatchery.

In 1949, the Fairbury mill burned down, but within a year the brothers had built a totally modern \$600,000 plant at the extreme west end of Locust street in Fairbury. Staying in tune with the industry, the company expanded and modernized as necessary over the years.

When built, the facility was a push-button composite of the most modern plants in the country, and originally was capable of producing 240 tons of feed per eight-hour shift. It was built to take advantage of bulk rates on raw materials.

At one point in their history, Honeggers took part in nearly every form of agriculture. Their 600 acre farm south of Forrest was the headquarters for animal husbandry research, including poultry, hogs, and beef. They sold feed for all types of animals. They also sold and constructed all types of farm buildings, and bought and sold grain.

In 1969, the company completed a series of divestitures that had spanned the second half of the decade. They sold off their building and livestock divisions, concentrating their efforts on feed manufacturing and grain dealing.

In 1977, EHE, a holding company, obtained through merger, 100 percent control of Honeggers common stock. Since then, the 601 Corporation of Illinois purchased 100 percent of the capital stock of Honeggers, and it is that corporation that is now selling the feed and grain company.

On February 6, 1989, the 601 Corporation sold the Honegger companies of Mt. Pleasant and Chelsea, Michigan, as well as Honegger divisions in Dundee and Haysville, Indiana, to Provico Inc. of Botkins, Ohio.

The original owners of the business, Frank and Sam Honegger, continue to live in the area. Frank, 87, is a resident of Fairview Haven in Fairbury, and Sam, 84, lives with his wife in Forrest.

The Blade ran a second story in the same edition about the closing of Honeggers.

Great while it lasted.....Era of 'Pig Popper' and planes

By Jim Roberts

A lively history spanning more than six decades in the livestock feed industry will come to a close next weekend when Honeggers & Co., Inc., of Fairbury discontinues business and terminates its remaining 30 employees.

That's probably less than 10% of the more than 300 who swelled their payroll in assorted divisions during the company's glory days from 1950 through about 1965.

In that era the business started in 1928 by the brothers Sam and Frank Honegger with a portable grinder-mixer on the back of a truck at their farm south of Forrest, rose to become a strong regional manufacturer of livestock and poultry feed.

In the process, the farm became an experimental and testing ground, and then a poultry hatchery, ultimately to be what the Grain and Feed Journal of July 26, 1959, called "the largest certified hatchery in the United States."

The "Honegger Layer", a Leghorn became famous through half of the United States as a market competitive bird.

"Honeggers presided over the last reign of the small town feed dealer," one veteran industry observer told The Blade this week.

"They did a really good job of building a dealer organization and promoting on-the-farm sales."

By the mid 1950s, the farm at Forrest had an airstrip and thousands of Flying Farmers flew in, and other thousands drove in, for field days and demonstrations. There wasn't a Honegger salesman who couldn't lead a tour or charcoal 500 steaks at a time. (In those days, char coaled pork chops hadn't yet become famous.)

Also by that time, Honeggers had terminal mills in Lincoln, Neb.; Indianola, Iowa, and Mansfield, Ohio.

They were also pioneers in the pre-fab farm building business and had plants for that in Fairbury and Onaway, Iowa, plus an equipment plant which may have employed as many as 150 at Taylorville.

They were also leader in confinement housing and slat flooring, using wood at first, which has now given way to concrete.

Besides welcoming thousands of Flying Farmers, the airstrip on the farm at Forrest was home base for what became known locally as the “Honegger Air Force” as the company gradually acquired a fleet of four or five aircraft. Some of the sales force had been military pilots, and others learned.

At one time, almost every Fairbury social gathering was punctuated with anecdotes of one or more aerial escapades by that group. There were some accidents, but happily, never any fatalities, although most of the participants have since died of natural causes.

In the early days, as the possibilities of the feed business and poultry prospects, outgrew the truck of Sam and Frank Honegger, the brothers gradually assembled a management team when expansion came.

Ben Roth, a Forrest native with modest education but a born salesman, became the president; A.P. Loomis, a Forrest poultry breeder, headed that line as vice president; Ed Dickey came in as General Sales director with Erwin Wascher as his assistant.

It was during Roth’s presidency that the Fairbury mill was dedicated as the “nations most modern” in 1950 after a 1949 fire destroyed their first Fairbury location in an ancient elevator. That began an exciting decade.

Roth presided over half of that time before leaving the company and retiring to California. He was succeeded by Dickey, described by one observer as a “bold, aggressive marketeer”; and the excitement continued.

One Year, they bought at auction the Grand Champion barrow at the International Livestock Exposition, which had been exhibited by Colleen Callahan of Milford, the niece of Mrs. Myron Erdman of Fairbury. Colleen today is a Peoria television personality specializing in farm matters.

That champion was widely exhibited and promoted as “Mr. Pig Popper” after one of the company’s most successful feeds.

Later another, smaller feeder pig came on the scene to promote Pig Popper and made many trips in one of the company’s planes, even journeying to the steps of the nation’s capital for a highly photographed and widely publicized visit.

But those days are gone, probably forever.

Today, livestock feed is brokered over the telephone and delivered in bulk. Companies have “bought” their own customers.

For example, Tyson Foods is mostly famous for its brand name on poultry in supermarkets.

But they are rumored to be the largest swine producer in the world, owning more brood sows than anyone, anywhere.

Honeggers... it was great while it lasted.



DEDICATED IN THE SUMMER of 1950, the new Honegger feed mill in Fairbury was notable as a “push button” operation. Grain and Feed Journal for the week of July 26 that year devoted the cover and 26 pages to what was termed the “most modern” facility in the nation. Next week, almost 39 years to the day of that celebration, with its 300 employees down to 30, the company will cease operations.

The June 28, 1989, Blade, ran a two page story about the closing of Honeggers'. This story included many photographs.

As Honeggers close 61 memorable years...

Hens, Beef Packer, Pig Popper and most of all...people

By Jim Roberts

This is a pop-quiz, as they like to say in the classroom.

We'll even make it an open book pop-quiz.

We'll even tell you some of the answers.

To start with, which of the following names do you identify with Fairbury: (A) Octave Chanute; (B) Honeggers?

The correct answer is "both."

Octave Chanute at the turn of the century conducted experiments with gliders on the sand-dunes of Lake Michigan near Chicago. His designs provided the basis for the Wright Brothers first successful airplane flight in Kitty Hawk, N.C., at which he was present.

In his early years, Octave Chanute as an engineer surveyed the right of way for the railroad through Fairbury, and in exchange for half-ownership, he platted the

town of Fairbury. His name appears as co-owner on the abstract of every piece of property in the Original Town of Fairbury!

In recognition to Chanute's contributions to successful flight, one of this country's very first air bases (built at the outset of World War I) nearby Chanute Field at Rantoul is named in his honor.

The odds are pretty strong that few, if any, of our readers associate Octave Chanute with Fairbury.

They are likewise pretty strong that everyone here, and most farmers in the state of Illinois as well as the great river valley, from Nebraska to Ohio, and across Michigan and Wisconsin know the Fairbury-based name of Honeggers and Co., for 61 years, from 1928 until Friday, when they close, a manufacturer of livestock feeds and creator of top-producing egg-laying chicken.

How could they miss knowing Honeggers? For a couple of decades, prior to their switch to paper bags in 1950, Honegger Feeds were bagged in cloth sacks with colorful print patterns. Thousands of depression-era farm wives turned those bags into dresses for themselves and their daughters, and even into shirts for the menfolk!

Honegger feeds... and the bags that brought them...were big in the Cornbelt.

And then there was "Mr. Pig Popper," the little piggy who before he went to market, became the airborne mascot when the company introduced that new brand of swine feed.

The brainchild of the company's first president, Ben Roth, a natural born salesman if there ever was one, "Mr. Pig Popper" traveled in one of the company's airplanes to fairs and field days, and dealer open houses and even to the nation's capital where he was photographed on the steps of that landmark building.

The photo appeared in hundreds of the country's newspapers and practically every farm publication in what was a public relations coup.

As part of the Pig Popper promotion, the company had purchased the grand champion barrow at the International Livestock Exposition in Chicago that fall, from young Colleen Callahan of Milford. (Colleen is now a Peoria TV personality specializing in agriculture, and is the niece of Mrs. Myron Erdmann of Fairbury.)

But the champion was soon too big for the company's light aircraft, and so a younger, smaller pig(s) took over the roll of spreading the Honegger name.

As we wrote last week, the company's hey-day was in the era of 1950, (when they started their new push-button, state-of-the-art, most modern feed mill),

through about 1965, when the entire farming technology picture began a major evolution. In the process, individual retail dealers, which were a Honeggers mainstay, fell by the wayside as confinement feeding operations made it possible for mills to make deliveries by the truckload, directly to the customer.

And in many cases, feed manufacturers more or less "bought" their customers, having a direct interest in the product.

But through 61 years, dating from the time Frank and Sam Honegger started out grinding their own feed and then expanded to their neighbors, the Honegger name made an ever-increasing impact on the area, ultimately expanding to headquarters in Fairbury.

There are no exact records immediately available, but educated guesses put their employment roles as high as 300 to 350.

And those guesses don't include whether that applied only to the feed manufacturing company headquartered in Fairbury, with satellite mills in Lincoln and Omaha, Neb., and Mansfield, Ohio, or whether that included a multitude of people at the big poultry operation in Forrest, which in 1950 was termed "the largest certified hatchery in the United States."

For decades, Honeggers meant jobs for Fairbury and Forrest. Many were natives, others were imports, hired for their skills and training in sales, accounting, nutrition, genetics, engineering and livestock production and management.

Naturally, there was turnover. Some could not cut it; some moved on to what they viewed as promotions with other companies in the livestock world; some left because of policy disagreements or management disputes.

Due to the coming and going, some lightly referred to it as "Honegger university" and the periodic changes resembled campus turnover.

But through it all, dozens and dozens of these people, both natives and imports made contributions, some major and some minor, to the war and the woof of life in Fairbury.

And that, boys and girls, brings us to the next question in this "open book," pop-quiz.

How many people can you name who through the years, worked at Honeggers in Fairbury or Forrest?

Here's part of the answer:

I sat at my desk and came up with the names of 91 people whom I personally knew, or knew of, who had been at Honeggers. (Bob Maurer was sitting next to me part of the time).

Sunday evening, at our dinner bridge club, I posed the question and read my list. With two of them being former Honeggerites themselves, the group added 56 more names.

In no particular order, and purposely omitting any members of the Honegger clan, here's a partial answer to that question. Obviously, it's a little light on hatchery names from Forrest, although the principal executives are there, I think.

Ben Roth, A.P. Loomis, Ed Dickey, Erv Wascher, Damon Catron, Dr. George Godfrey, Dr. George Fischer, Rick Kendall, James F. Spurrier, James L. Spurrier, Kent Ryan, Clarence Bell, George Hawkins, Don Steidinger, Ray Searby, Marshall Kaisner, Hank Bull, Logan Wilson, Harvey Traub, and Dick Hull;

Bob Slayton, Ray Timmons, Chris Hoffman, Virg Hulse, Jerry Dowling, Louis Retter, Norm Rawson, Frank Pratt, Les Roth and Elmer Roth;

Squirt Magee, Lee Rolf, Stan McCulloh, Wilman Davis, Dr. Cletis Williams, Dr. Clarke, Chuck Holforthy, Don Geiser, Joe Stevenson, and Don Gray;

Joe McKimmey, Tence Williams, Walt Lloyd, Bob Curtiss, Mark Hoerner, Dick Merritt, Dick Franks, Ed Kloter, Roger Runyon, and Jim Walter:

Don Butler, Henry Steffen. Harold Butler, Chuck Sass, Chuck Sasse, Leo Smith, Bill Gittinger, Jim Newlin, Clyde Koehl, and Ron Schlipf;

Bill Jenkins, Ken Jenkins, Mary Peerman, Kay Hoffman, Evy Jenkins, Mag Hildreth, Joyce Huber, Carole Nussbaum, Alph Ferguson, and Vera Ferguson;

Whitey Waibel, Ron Groskreutz, Bob Wall, Jerry Vaughan, Jr., J.C. Ebach, Emil Anliker, Lyle Ebach, Ruth Wall, Ron Moore, and Glenn Sparks;

Wayne Steffen, Rich Steffen, Sam Kennedy, Ken Kennedy, Harold Dickey, Jan Dowling, Mary Morris, Alma Meister Roberts, Diane Kennedy Meister, and Van Ambrose;

C.R. Voris, Ross Hildreth, Bob Turnage, Cliff Kinate, Max Smith, Cecil Query, Gordon McKinney, Jerry Vaughn, Sr., Chuck Whately, Norm Bielke, and Chuck Wells;

Don Rabe, Harry Slaughter, Bob Concannon, Willi Schwatzwalder, Fred Wing, Bob Davis, Emil Hertlein, Guy Moore, Betty Smith, Bump Steidinger, and Bonnie Stein Traub;

Maxine Yoder, Nancy Arnold, Arnold Rich, Dick Arnold, Carol Vaughan, Mary Beth Kinate, Nora Pettyjohn, Louise Hallock, Dorothy Hammond, and Polly Fellers;

Carol Tavener Schroen, Bill Goslin, Bud Goslin, Ivan Mowery, Greg Magee, Nancy Ifft, Julie Magee Meyer, Ollie Dowlen, and Julie Surber;

Peggy Morris, Watt Nakamaru, Eunice Pratt, Cliff Sterrenberg, Marvin Roth, Nolan Rathbun, Jack Tomlison, Mary Mae Traub, Dorothy Traub, and Ben Lorch.

Roger Farley, Lee Best, Carl Bach, Dave Ashbrook, Paul Thomas, Ken Holt, Rich Miller, Bud Hill, Galen Thompson and June McDowell.

That, with a little help, is my list, and I know there are names missing, some that I even know and can't bring to mind.

But wait. As luck would have it, Monday noon I ran into Wilman Davis, whose name is on the list. He was president of Honegger Farms when he retired and moved to Champaign. I told him of this name project, and while he was eating lunch he wrote a list of about 60 names, with only 12 duplications to the list above.

So here are almost 50 more, and these lists don't include Sam and Frank Honegger; Lyle, Jerry and Gordon Honegger, which Wilman also listed.

R.W. Cummins, Sam Ridlin; Dr. Geo. Mulkey, Jim Gramowski, Leland Wycoff, Don Butler, Ruth Butler, and Barbara (Bauerle) Wycoff; Ruth Metz, David Metz, Ray Huston, A.W. Blauert, Art McLoughlin, Wally Ross, Lillian Tharp, Louis Tharp, and Bud Hensley;

Marian Rieger, Steve Rieger, Earl Lunde, Chuck Merritt, The Steffen sisters, Lloyd Bachtold, Art LaForce, Beverly Anliker, and Harriet Schrof;

Judy Traub, Mildred Traub, J.R. Davis, Stephen Davis, Edna Goembel, Charles Goembel, Romie Thiel, Ray Ferguson, and Tim Manahan;

The Kaisner sisters, Joy Kaisner, Dr. Carl Weston, and the Honegger sisters, Anna, Ella, Kathryn and Natalie.

O.K., we don't claim to be perfect. If we left off your name, or your cousin, or your next door neighbor, just drop us a note and we'll be happy to add it to the list. Honeggers, after more than 61 years, deserves to go out with more than a whimper. It meant a lot to Fairbury. This will preserve, as newspapers do, a written record for history.

Honegger 'heyday' ends with 30-employee payday

By Judy Knauer

Honeggers Grain Co., Inc. of Fairbury will close its doors this Friday, June 30, 1989. In its "heyday" the company employed as many as 300 to 350 people in Fairbury.

Those on the final payroll are R.W. Funk, Ronald E. Groskreutz, Glen Waibel, Ken Jones, Ann Abel, Gloria Hitchens, Carol Alford, Teresa Hamilton, Bev Bachtold, Ken Runyon, Chuck Whately, Philip Goslin, Harold Butler, Harold Martin, Larry Rinkenberger, Sharon Rinkenberger, Richard Swing, Erhard Wagner, Stanley Minard, and Scott Martin.

Memorable Big H Names

The list of Honegger names through the decades includes some similarities.

One such is Jim Spurrier, of which there were two, at the same time.

First in was James F. Spurrier, who came to Fairbury in the spring of 1963 as merchandising manager. A few years later he left to join A.O. Smith Harvestore, manufacturer of those big blue (Smile when you call them a silo) structures which dot the livestock country, ultimately becoming vice-president of sales.

Later, James L. Spurrier joined the company in sales. He lived in Pontiac where he gained some notoriety one Sunday morning when fire broke out on the kitchen stove. After turning in the alarm he bolted out the kitchen door which locked behind him and there he was on the porch, stark naked. When the fire department arrived, he was trying to protect his dignity with the lid of a garbage can.

Then there was Chuck Sass, who lived in Fairbury and managed the mill here and also in Nebraska. At the same time, Chuck Sasse managed the company's experimental farm south of Cropsey, the former Harold Elliott farm.

Finally there were Dick Arnold and Arnold Rich. They sometimes traveled together, and caused some consternation one night when they signed in as Arnold Rich and Rich Arnold. Whether you do that last name first, or first name first, it caused the manager to exclaim "Wait a minute. What are you guys trying to pull?"

Some of the many photographs from this Blade story are shown below.



ANOTHER TRAINLOAD promotion, this one for Honeggers' Steer Popper, ready to leave the Honegger mill in Fairbury about 1960. Identifiable from the left are Hap DeFries, Mayor Roy Taylor, Sam Honegger, Station Agent Perry Burroughs, and Paul Hampsch of Honegger's sales force. The man straddling the rails is unidentified. Center is Erwin Wascher, then two unidentified men, and Frank Honegger at far right.



KEY PLAYERS in the sales and development of farm buildings, ultimately known as Thrive Center, were Chuck Holforty and Joe Stevenson.



STAFF AT HONEGGER FARM STORES retail outlet in Fairbury in 1956 were, from left, Bill Gittinger, Marie Sutter, Ben Lorch, Ralph Broquard and Guy Moore.



ANOTHER TRAINLOAD SPECIAL shipped from the Fairbury mill brought out this group. Identifiable are Len Roth, Mark Hoerner, second and third from left; and John Honegger and Ray Ferguson, first and second from right.



SAM HONEGGER, left, addresses an executive session in the office of **Clarence Bell**, seated center, who served a decade as company president from 1964 to 1974.



FRANK AND SAM Honegger with one of the Honegger layers, the Leghorn strain developed by the Honegger Farms branch of the company into one of the nation's most prolific and competitive birds in the egg production link of the nation's food chain.



GRAND CHAMPION BARROW of the 1959 International Livestock Exposition at Chicago was purchased by Honeggers to fill the role of "Mr. Pig Popper." The barrow was exhibited by Colleen Callahan of Milford, then 8 years old and the niece of Mrs. Myron Erdmann of Fairbury.

The July 27, 1989, Pantagraph published the following story.

Closed Fairbury grain firm hoping for better crop yields

By CHRIS ANDERSON Pantagraph farm editor

FAIRBURY — If average corn and soybean crops are harvested this fall, it will come too late to help owners of Honeggers Grain Co. Inc. But officials of the company are banking on a healthy harvest as a selling point for their 2.4 million bushel grain storage facility at 201 W. Locust St., Fairbury. The landmark grain and feed business, founded in 1927, fell victim to three partially drought-reduced crops from 1985-87, and total crop failure due to severe drought last year. It closed June 30. Thirty employees were affected by the closing.

"We could not sustain our business in hopes of a good harvest this year," said Richard Funk, former Honegger executive vice president. "We tried to sell the company as a whole, but we could not. We have talked to many prospective buyers. I am convinced that the facility will not sit idle. We were in business for 60 years, and we know that it has to rain sometime. Maybe if we get a good harvest, the facility will sell." The closing will not leave Fairbury farmers without grain storage space. Farmers Grain Co. of Fairbury and Prairie Central Co-op at nearby Weston will be able to handle a normal harvest without straining storage capacity, Funk said. Most area elevators sit nearly empty due to last year's crop disaster.

Funk, who worked at Honegger's for 18 years, said company officials knew after the 1988 harvest that the business might have to close. The firm is owned by 601 Corp. of Illinois, a holding company created by two primary shareholders to own Honegger's.

The firm began in 1927 when brothers Sam and Frank Honegger borrowed a car, went to the Illinois State Fair and bought a new type of grinder to make feeds for their dairy herd.

When the duo started getting positive results with cows and chickens on their Forrest farm, neighbors began dropping by to get feed. The brothers erected a small feed mill on the farm to meet demand.

Honegger employees and Fairbury residents were not shocked at the closing. Earlier this year, Honegger officials began selling portions of the business. In February, the wholesale feed division was sold to Provico Inc. of Botkins, Ohio. Feed and grain facilities in Indiana, Ohio and Michigan were also sold. A grain elevator at Cissna Park entered a joint venture with another grain firm, while two long-time elevator operators teamed up to purchase former Honegger elevators at Strawn and Emington.

Ron Groskreutz, a 32-year Honegger employee, and Jack Trainor, owner of Trainor Grain and Supply Co. of Saunemin, are operating the two elevators under the name of R.G. Grain Co. The purchase, for an undisclosed sum, included 200,000 bushels of grain. The elevators have a combined storage capacity of 1.3 million bushels.

"We are optimistic about agriculture. We are sitting in an area of good farmland and good customers," said Groskreutz. "We hope the cycle of bad years is over."

We don't have our crop in the bank, but we are in much better shape than last year. Farmers deserve a good year in this area."

Two weeks ago, Groskreutz said Livingston County crops resembled drought-stricken plants of last year. Cooler temperatures and 4 to 7 inches of rain received last week in the Strawn-Emington area provided ideal corn pollinating conditions, he said. Farmers conducting business with R.G. Grain will receive Trainor Grain receipts because the company is operating under the Trainor warehouse license, Groskreutz explained.

Chapter 26

EPA Clean-Up

When Honeggers' shut down on June 30, 1989, the employees at the mill complex on the west side of Fairbury must have left for good and locked the doors. The April 21, 1990, Pantagraph published a story about hazardous materials left at the site.

Hazardous materials force EPA to seal off Fairbury grain facility

By TONY PARKER Pantagraph staff

FAIRBURY — Reacting to a potentially volatile situation involving hazardous materials, workers from the state Environmental Protection Agency yesterday sealed off the vacant Honeggers Grain Co. Inc. facility in Fairbury. Four workers from the agency gathered between 20 and 30 containers of potentially hazardous materials and locked them in an enclosed area within the facility, said Rich Johnson, a state EPA environmental protection specialist.

Signs noting danger within the facility also were posted, and both local and state police have been asked to increase patrols in the area, he said. "What we want to do is provide more security to the facility than there has been in the past," Johnson said, noting that if combined, the materials could cause an explosion or fire. Johnson said hazardous materials located at the site included insecticides and laboratory chemicals that are corrosive, toxic or flammable.

The materials, which were stored in containers ranging in size from one quart to 55 gallons, were found in a variety of locations both inside and outside the main building. The chemicals were probably used for general maintenance and testing purposes inside the facility, which provided storage space for both livestock feed and grain, he said.

Sealing the plant is only a temporary measure to increase public safety, Johnson said, adding state officials will contact owners of the business to seek voluntary removal of the materials.

"At this point we don't even know if the owner or operator will have any qualms about doing that," he said. If the owners fail to cooperate, Johnson said legal action could be taken to have the chemicals removed.

The Fairbury facility, which is located at 201 W. Locust Street, was closed June 30 after the company fell victim to four drought-plagued growing seasons. The 2 million-bushel grain storage facility is owned by the 601 Corporation of Illinois, a holding company created by two primary shareholders to own Honeggers. Johnson said the containers were discovered by Livingston County sheriff's police, who were investigating reports of vandalism at the location.

Johnson praised employees of the sheriff's department for "recognizing that there had been chemicals abandoned here." An on-site inspection by environmental officials Tuesday revealed that hazardous materials were stored in at least some of the containers, he said. Johnson said state police officials have contacted local prosecutors about the problem. Livingston County State's Attorney Donald Bernardi said he will review reports on the incident once he receives them.

The grain and feed business was founded in 1933 by brothers Sam and Frank Honegger. Portions of the business, including the company's feed division, feed and grain elevators in Indiana, Ohio and Michigan, and elevators in Strawn and Emington were sold last year.

The Pantagraph ran a follow-up story on September 20, 1990.

Owners vow to clean up granary site

By TONY PARKER Pantagraph staff

FAIRBURY—Police have completed an investigation of hazardous materials left at a vacant Honeggers Grain Co. Inc. facility in Fairbury and the plant's owners are working to voluntarily remove the containers.

Livingston County State's Attorney Donald Bernardi said yesterday the state police Division of Criminal Investigation forwarded a report on the containers to his office Tuesday. DCI agents began their investigation shortly after officials with the state Environmental Protection Agency sealed off the facility April 20, Bernardi said.

Although he has not yet read the lengthy report, Bernardi said he will do so in the near future "to determine whether or not criminal charges are warranted." The state's attorney said his first concern was for public safety, but he took no action to have the 20 to 30 containers of hazardous materials removed from the plant because he was assured "that steps were being taken to address that immediately."

However, EPA officials said yesterday that the materials, which included insecticides and laboratory chemicals that are corrosive, toxic or flammable, remain at the site. The containers, which range in size from one quart to 55 gallons, were, however, locked in an enclosed area within the facility April 20 and signs have been posted noting danger within the plant. And state officials said the 601 Corporation of Illinois, a holding company that owns the 2-million-bushel grain storage facility, has voluntarily agreed to remove the containers.

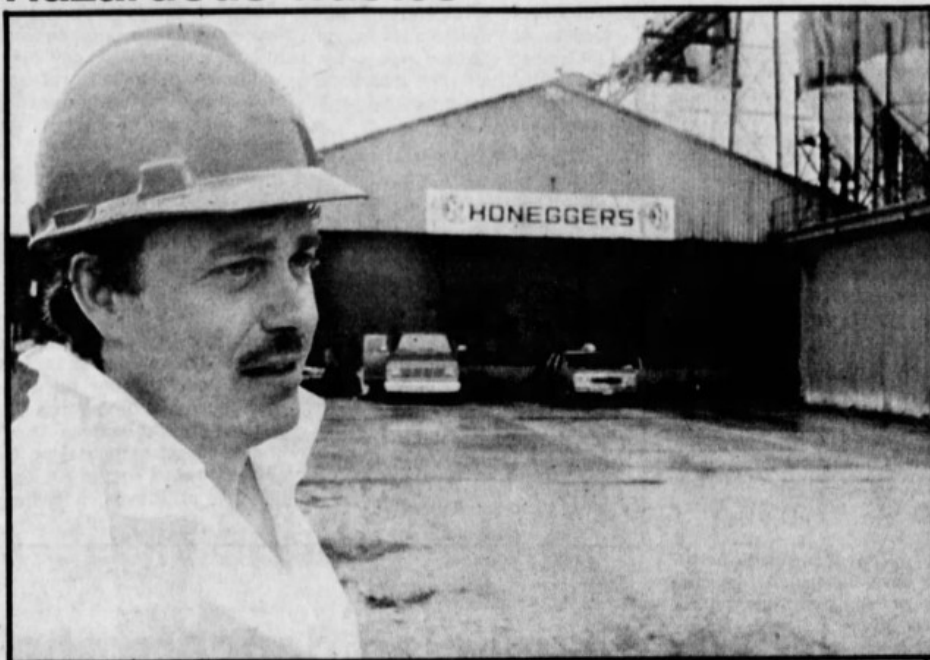
Although no schedule has been established for the removal, state officials gave a tour to between six and eight environmental consulting firms interested in the project on Aug 21, said Gary Reside, project manager in the state EPA's Immediate Removal Unit. The consulting firms were given 30 days to submit bids for removal to the firm, he said. After the company selects a bidder, a work plan will be drawn up and submitted to state officials for their approval, he said.

An attorney for the company also said yesterday no schedule has been established for the cleanup. "The company is planning to take some action. As far as an exact time frame, I'm afraid I can't give you one at this time. There are a number of factors that need to be considered," said Chicago attorney Carolyn Hesse.

The Fairbury facility, which is located at 201 West Locust St., was closed on June 30, 1989, after the company fell victim to four drought-plagued growing seasons. State officials believe the chemicals left behind were used for general maintenance and testing purposes inside the facility.

The business was founded in 1933 by brothers Sam and Frank Honegger. Portions of the business, including the company's feed division, feed and grain elevators in Indiana, Ohio and Michigan, and elevators in Strawn and Emington were sold last year.

Hazardous wastes



The Pantagraph/MAUREEN O'CONNOR

Rich Johnson, an Environmental Protection Agency specialist, stood in front of Honeggers Grain Co. Inc., Fairbury, where workers sealed the vacant facility which contained 20 to 30 containers of solvents, corrosives and toxic substances. EPA officials will try to locate owners of the facility to seek voluntary removal of the containers. Please see story, page A2.

Chapter 27

Deaths of the Founders

Benjamin Roth

One of the major figures in the history of Honeggers' & Co. Inc. was Ben Roth. He retired to California and died there in 1984. The March 8, 1984, Blade, published a short obituary for him. No longer obituary could be found.

Former Fairburian Ben Roth Dies

Funeral services for a former Fairbury man, Ben Roth, 76, were held Wednesday morning in Glendale, California.

Mr. Roth died March 4, in Glendale of apparent natural causes.

A longtime Fairbury resident, Roth is survived by his wife Mamie, and four brothers: John, of Fairbury, Harry, Phoenix, Arizona; Joe, Peoria; and Sam, Morton. He is also survived by three children.

He was preceded in death by his parents and three sisters.

Kiefer and Eyrick Mortuary of Glendale were in charge of funeral arrangements.

Sam Honegger

The first major founder to die was Sam Honegger. The July 22, 1991, Pantagraph published his obituary.

Samuel R. Honegger

FORREST — The funeral of Samuel R. "Sam" Honegger, 88, lifelong resident of Forrest, former owner of a poultry and feed business in Forrest and Fairbury, will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Forrest Apostolic Christian Church. Ministers of the church will officiate. Burial will be in North Apostolic Christian Cemetery, rural Forrest. Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. today at Culkin-Diggle Funeral Home, Forrest, and one hour before the service at the church Tuesday.

Mr. Honegger died at 4:52 p.m. Friday (July 19, 1991) at Fairview Haven Nursing Home, Fairbury. He had been in ill health the past several years. He was born March 9, 1905, in Forrest, a son of Edward and Bertha Haab Honegger. He married Leah Rieger Feb. 10, 1932, in Forrest. She survives. Also surviving are four sons, Lyle, Fairbury; Jerry, Forrest; Gordon, Morton; and Sam, Albuquerque, N.M.; 11 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; one brother, Frank, Fairbury; and two sisters, Kathryn and Nathalia Honegger, both of Fairbury.

He was preceded in death by four brothers and six sisters. Mr. Honegger was co-founder of Honegger's and Co. at Fairbury and also of Honegger Farms Inc. in Forrest. He served as chairman of the board of directors until retiring in 1971. He was a member of Forrest Apostolic Christian Church.

Memorials may be made to Fairview Haven Nursing Home, Fairbury. A son's name and family members who preceded Mr. Honegger in death were incorrect in yesterday's Pantagraph.

Frank Honegger

The last founder to die was Frank Honegger. The September 10, 1992, Blade published his obituary.

Frank E. Honegger

FORREST—Frank E. Honegger, 90, formerly of Forrest and former owner of a Fairbury business, died at 2:30 a.m. Wednesday, September 2, 1992, at Fairview Haven Nursing Home, Fairbury.

His funeral was at 10 a.m. Friday at Forrest Apostolic Christian Church. Church ministers officiated.

Burial was in North Apostolic Christian Cemetery, Forrest.

Visitation was held Thursday at Culkin-Diggle Funeral Home, Forrest, and for one hour before the service at the church Friday.

Mr. Honegger was born November 30, 1901, in Forrest, a son of Edward and Bertha Haab Honegger. He married Hilda-Kilgus Sept. 12, 1928, in Forrest. She died Dec. 13, 1977.

Surviving are one son, James, Forrest; two daughters, Velma Koehl and Joan Glendenning, both of Forrest; two sisters, Kathryn Honegger and Nathalia Honegger, both of Fairbury; four grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by five brothers, six sisters and one grandchild.

Mr. Honegger was a member of Forrest Apostolic Christian Church.

He was co-owner of Honegger Co., Inc. at Fairbury and Honegger Farm Inc. at Forrest.

Mr. Honegger served on the board of directors of Fairview Haven Nursing Home, Fairbury, and Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped, Morton.

Memorials may be made to Fairview Haven Nursing Home or Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped.

Evelsizer Description of Frank and Sam Honegger

Dennis Evelsizer, in his 1969 Thesis, wrote a nice and short summary of the lives of both Frank and Sam Honegger. He interviewed both men as part of his ISU Thesis.

Sam R. Honegger as Chairman of the Board, has served as chief executive officer of the company since its incorporation until the sale in 1968. He has also been a director of Honegger House, Inc., since its incorporation in 1951, and has been President and a director of Honegger Farms Co., Inc., since its in-corporation in 1953.

"Mr. Sam," as he is affectionately known by Honegger personnel, has many personal interests and investment in business and farming enterprises, many of which are unrelated to the Honegger business.

He has been active throughout the Midwest for more than a third of a century in all matters dealing with agriculture and has held many committee memberships and directorates in local, state, and national agricultural groups.

Sam Honegger is an active member of the Apostolic Christian Church and through the years has been active in his personal and financial support of charitable and benevolent activities of the church and of other groups.

Though Sam Honegger has risen to high positions in the business world as director of several large corporations bearing the Honegger name, he has remained a humble person. In fact, humbleness is a trait Sam Honegger pursued all his life. He was never too busy, while chairman of the board, to talk with employees.

The most gratifying experience for Sam Honegger in his career with the company was in gaining "people's respect . . . when you can gain the respect of the employees, dealers, suppliers, and the respect they have shown to us. At the same time we've realized we must earn their respect by operating an honest, dependable business."

An indication as to the type of person Sam Honegger is, is indicated in his answer to the question of his plans after sale of the company became final:

You know we live fairly simply and don't require a lot . . . really. I'm going to do things that I have always wanted. We are back farming now. I've never liked bigger business. We are farming about 500-600 acres and I am having a lot of fun. I expect to do the things that Mrs. Honegger and I have always talked about doing Trying to keep up with scientific methods of farming today is quite a job and that's what I'm primarily interested in. I never did like to sit behind a desk and look at figures. I like to get out and move around and put ideas to work.

Frank E. Honegger has never been quite active in the Honegger enterprises. He has been an officer and director of Honeggers' & Co., Inc., since its incorporation and Vice President and a Director of Honegger Farms Co., Inc., since its incorporation.

Frank Honegger, like his brother, has many personal interests and investments in varied business and agricultural enterprises, many of which are on a partnership basis with his brother Sam. He is also active in local, state and national industry organizations, and he is also a member of the Apostolic Christian Church. Frank Honegger's most gratifying experience with the company was:

Seeing people learn a better way to do things. It's a real gratifying and rewarding experience to go out and help people, talk with them, and listen to their points of view. I've enjoyed this and hope to continue making some field trips from time to time. We will be just as interested in Honeggers' & Co., Inc., as we were before and will do everything to help in the future in any way we can.

The founding brothers were willing to relinquish their control of and sell the company after 40 years because they wished to retire. Neither brother was particularly interested in running a giant corporation at any time in the history of the company. It was time, they decided, to turn the operations over to younger hands.

[Chapter 28](#)

Remnants of the Business

Fairbury Mill

In Fairbury, about the only remaining physical reminder of Honeggers' & Co. Inc. is the feed mill facility at the west end of Locust Street. The tall concrete structures still stand. The galvanized metal large grain storage bin still stand are still utilized.

The height of the tall concrete silos make an excellent place to locate cell phone towers and antennas. Ryan Bachtold used his drone to make a YouTube video which shows the extensive amount of electronic equipment located on the top of the concrete silos. The title of his video is ***Honegger Mill Antenna Inspection*** and it can be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/wqgtlku>.



Honegger Hotel

The Honegger Hotel was eventually torn down in August of 1995. Fairbury's new City Hall was built in its place at the southwest corner of Locust and Second Streets.



When Mr. Blivens built the Illinois Hotel back in 1911, he had a large white block engraved and placed high in the front of his new building. When the hotel was torn down, a Fairbury resident saved this heavy stone. In 2019, the stone was donated to the Fairbury Echoes Museum.



When the hotel was demolished in August of 1995, an unknown Fairbury citizen made an eight minute video of the demolition work. This video has been uploaded to the web site Archive.org and can be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/s3gbkog>.



Circa 1960 Nakamaru Video of Forrest Hatchery

In 1957, Watt Nakamaru and his family moved to Fairbury, Illinois. Watt became a Honeggers' employee at the Forrest Hatchery and he was employed as a chicken sexer. A chicken sexer is someone who distinguishes the sex of chicks and other hatchlings. Watt would quickly sort the male and female chicken hatchlings for Honeggers'. Later, Watt operated his own photography business in Fairbury.

Circa 1960, Watt made videos of the Fairbury swimming pool, Fairbury Indian Creek Golf Course, Honeggers' Forrest Hatchery, and the Fairbury Homecoming Parade. A copy of these videos was donated to the Fairbury Echoes Museum. Electronic copies of these videos were uploaded to YouTube in 2019 by the author.

Watt's Forrest hatchery video shows many employees at the hatchery as well as the air hangar for the Honeggers' company airplanes. The hatchery video was split into Part I and Part 2 on YouTube. The address of Part I is <https://tinyurl.com/tfuly2k> and Part II is <https://tinyurl.com/tuzdad5>.

1969 Evelsizer Thesis

Mr. Evelsizer's thesis about Honeggers contains a lot of historical information about Honeggers' & Co. Inc. A paper copy of this thesis is among the collections of the Fairbury Echoes Museum. A digital copy is available at Archive.Org.

Promotional Materials

During its 56 years of business, Honeggers' generated a tremendous amount of promotional sales materials. Many of these promotional materials are in the hands of collectors. The Fairbury Echoes Museum also has a significant amount of Honeggers' related items in its collection of artifacts. These promotional items continuously appear for sale on EBay also.

Photographs of some of these promotional materials are included in the *Miscellaneous Images* chapter.

Fairbury Echoes Museum

This museum has many Honeggers' related items in its collection. These include promotional materials and photographs. A paper copy of Mr. Evelsizer's 1969 Honeggers' thesis is also among the collection. A copy of the building products catalog shown in this book is among the collection. A copy of the 1960 Annual Report is also in the collection. The cornerstone of the Illinois Hotel building, later the Honegger House, is also stored at the museum.

Dave's Supermarket

Their conference room has many iconic images of Fairbury, including a collage of Honeggers' related items.

Chapter 29

Conclusion

For 56 years, Honeggers' & Co. Inc. had a significant impact on the Fairbury and Forrest areas. They employed many people in this area with peak employment of almost 500 people. Many highly educated and talented people moved to the Fairbury area because of employment opportunities at Honeggers'.

Back in the 1920s, it was common for farm boys to only attend country school through the eighth grade. Instead of going to high school, these boys would start working on the family farm. This was the case for Frank and Sam Honegger.

Although neither Frank or Sam finished high school, they both had a love of learning how to do things better by experimentation. They were pioneers in performing experiments to learn how to make better feeds. They were also pioneers in the poultry business with respect to learning how to breed more efficient chickens. They helped many college researchers by conducting research at their Forrest farm. This research led to many published college research papers on improving the livestock feed and poultry industries.

The author has known many people who never finished high school. Some of these people have a disdain for other people who finished high school and college. Frank and Sam never had a disdain for highly educated people. They employed numerous college graduates and PhD's in their business. If these highly educated people could help to improve their business, they hired them.

In today's dollars, Honeggers was a medium sized company with annual sales dollars in the \$100 million range. They are the only known Fairbury company to go public and issue common stock. They were also a member of the Chicago Board of Trade. They owned and operated their own fleet of four company airplanes. They operated a fleet of big rig delivery trucks making deliveries throughout the Midwest. They were pioneers in the use of computers and linear programming in the business world.

The international scope of this business is not really appreciated today. The hatchery business, split-off as Honegger Farms Co., Inc., in 1953, did business with 250 associate hatcheries in the United States, Canada, Mexico, South America, Belgium, Holland, and Switzerland. When the hatchery closed, some experienced employees went on to work for the hatcheries of other companies.

During the 56 years of time that Honeggers' were in business, many major changes in agriculture took place. The number of farms and their size changed dramatically. For example, in 1910 there were 3,969 farms with an average size of 160 acres in Livingston County. By 2010, there were only 1,319 farms and they had grown to an average size of 476 acres.

Another major change was the amount of livestock raised on each farm. For example, until the 1970s, most farmers kept some livestock including chickens, hogs, and cattle. As the small farmers disappeared and the larger farmers emerged, most of these farmers stopped raising any livestock. This dramatically reduced the need for animal feeds supplied by small-town Honeggers' feed dealers.

Another major trend was the industrialization of livestock farming. For example, in the 1950s, the most chickens a farmer might have would be less than 100. By the 1980s, large chicken farms in Arkansas and Georgia would have over 1 million chickens in their complexes. These large firms owned their own feed mills and had no need to purchase animal feed from a regional firm like Honeggers'.

These two major trends, plus others, eventually caused Honeggers' to go out of business in 1989. Today, the average life of a company is about 20 years. Statistically, it is amazing they were able to stay in business for 56 years.

One interesting theoretical question is what would have happened if Ben Roth had bought out the two brothers in 1955, instead of selling out and going to California. Could Ben Roth have adapted the business strategy to the changing industry trends? We will never know.

Both Frank and Sam Honegger remained humble men, even after their great business success. They were known to comment to friends that they did pretty well for two country boys that never finished high school.

Chapter 30

Miscellaneous Images

The Honeggers' related images shown below are in no particular order.





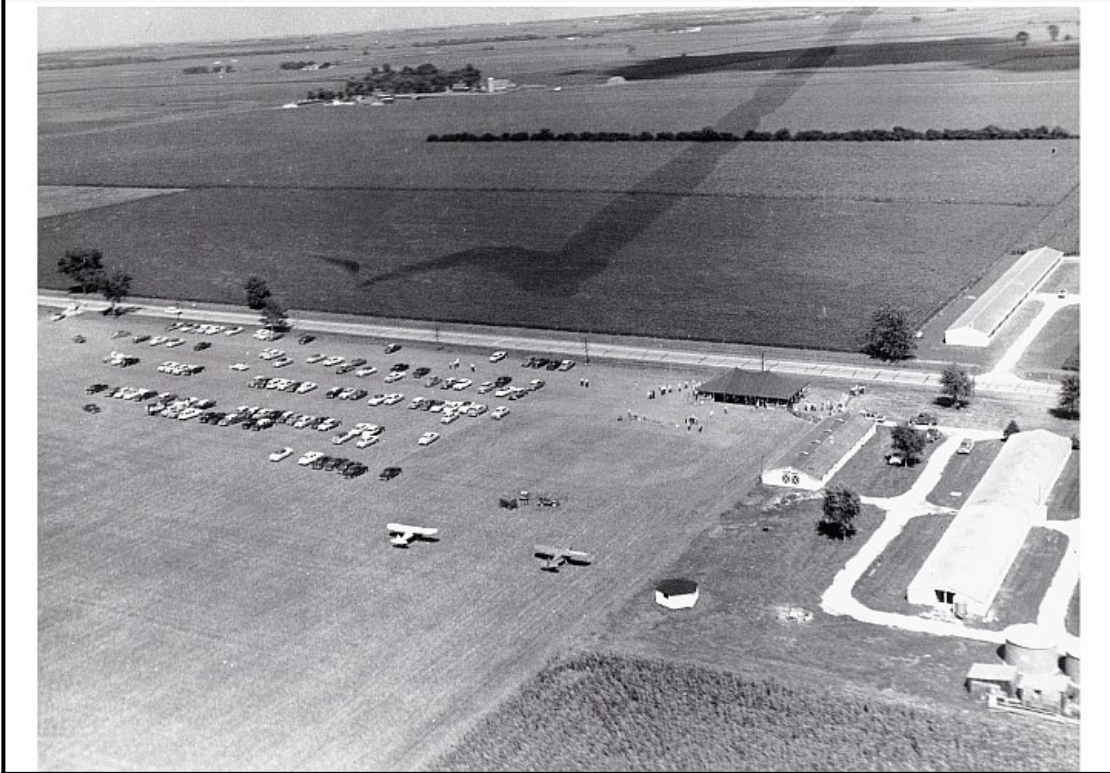


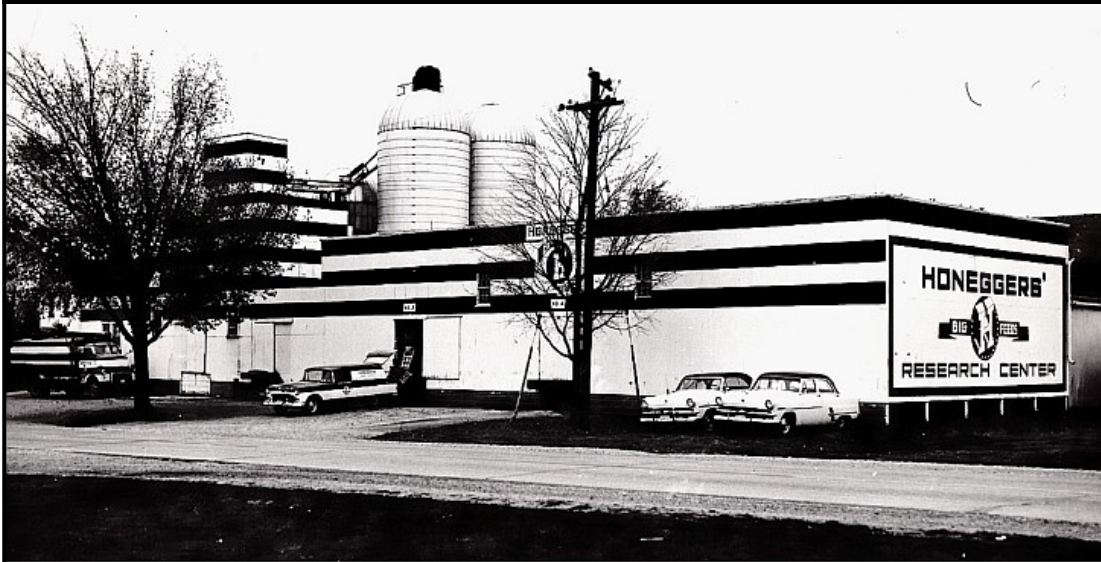
Taylorville



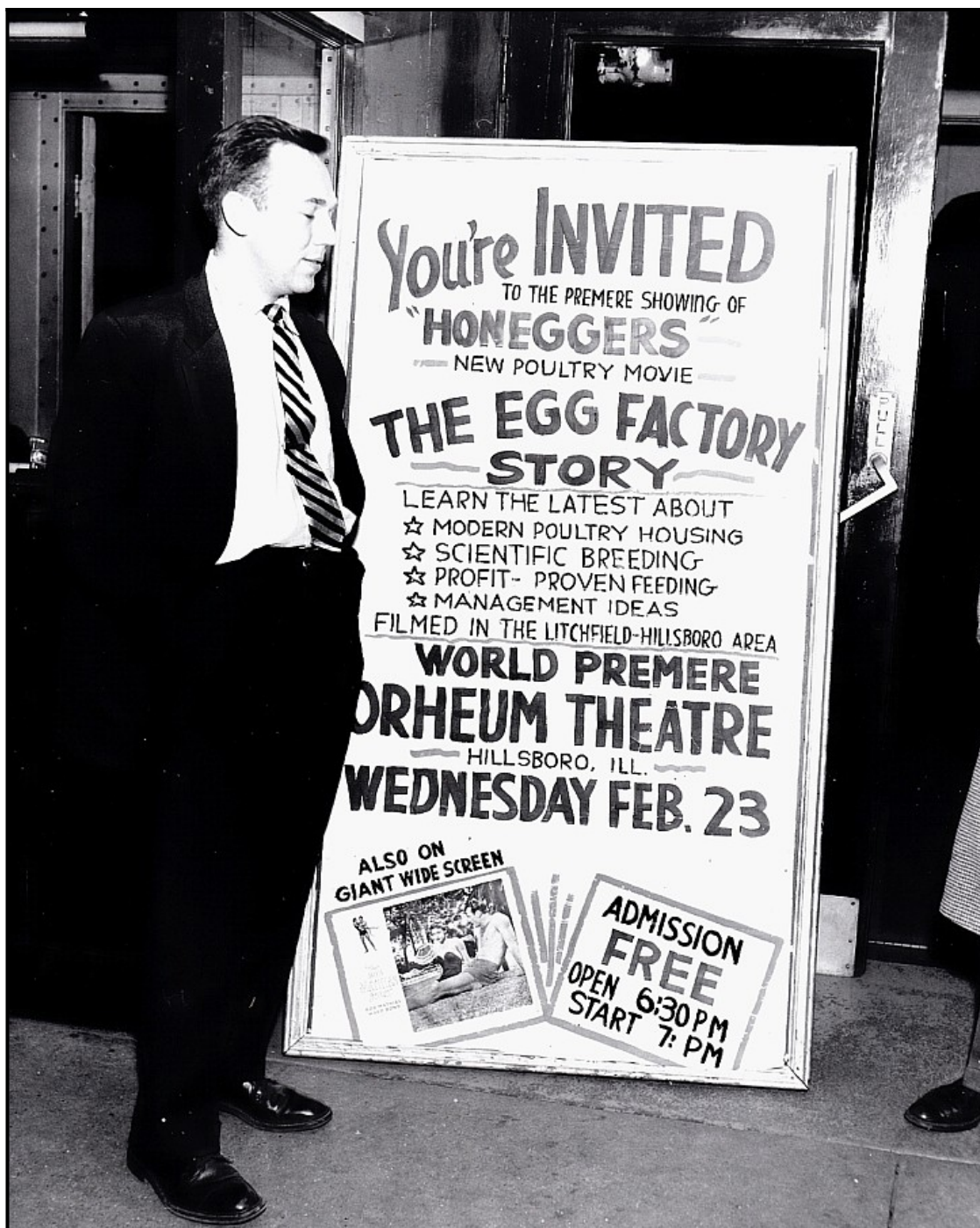


Taylorville





Sam Honegger Receiving an Award



You're INVITED

TO THE PREMIERE SHOWING OF

"HONEGGERS"

NEW POULTRY MOVIE

THE EGG FACTORY STORY

LEARN THE LATEST ABOUT

☆ MODERN POULTRY HOUSING

☆ SCIENTIFIC BREEDING

☆ PROFIT- PROVEN FEEDING

☆ MANAGEMENT IDEAS

FILMED IN THE LITCHFIELD-HILLSBORO AREA

WORLD PREMIERE

ORHEUM THEATRE

HILLSBORO, ILL.

WEDNESDAY FEB. 23

ALSO ON
GIANT WIDE SCREEN



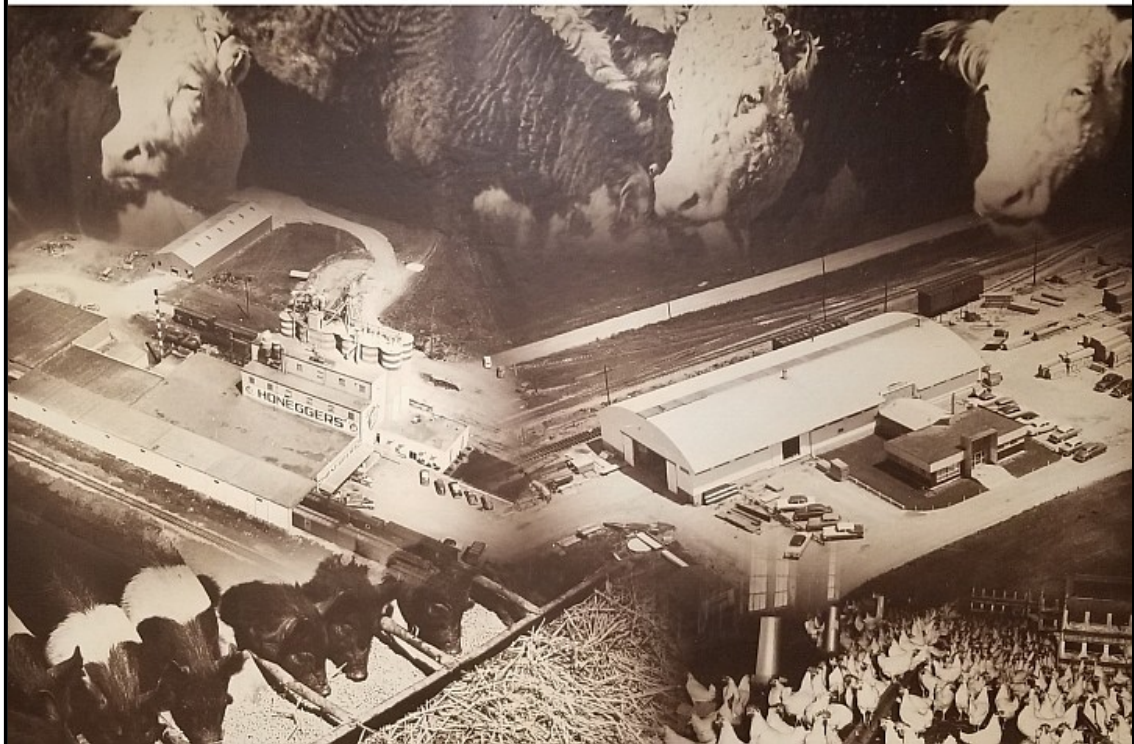
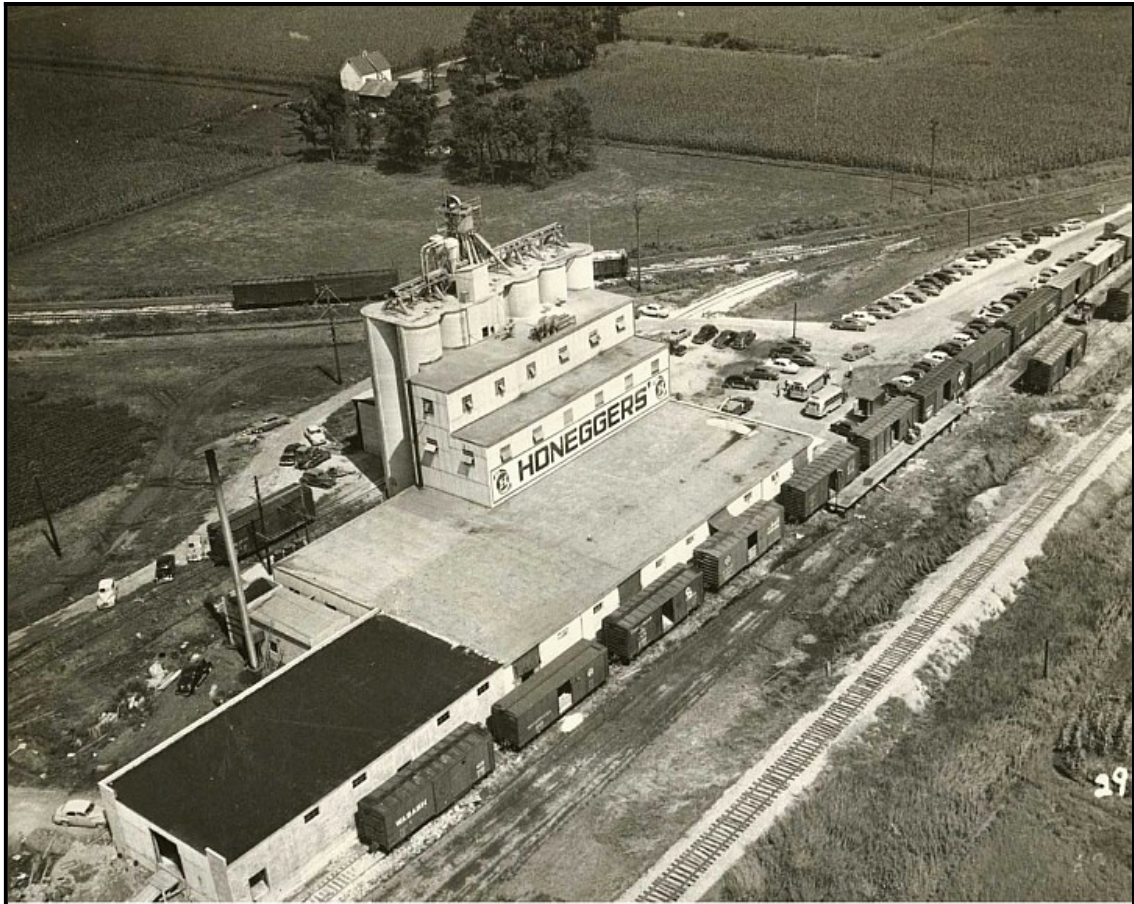
ADMISSION
FREE

OPEN 6:30 PM
START 7: PM





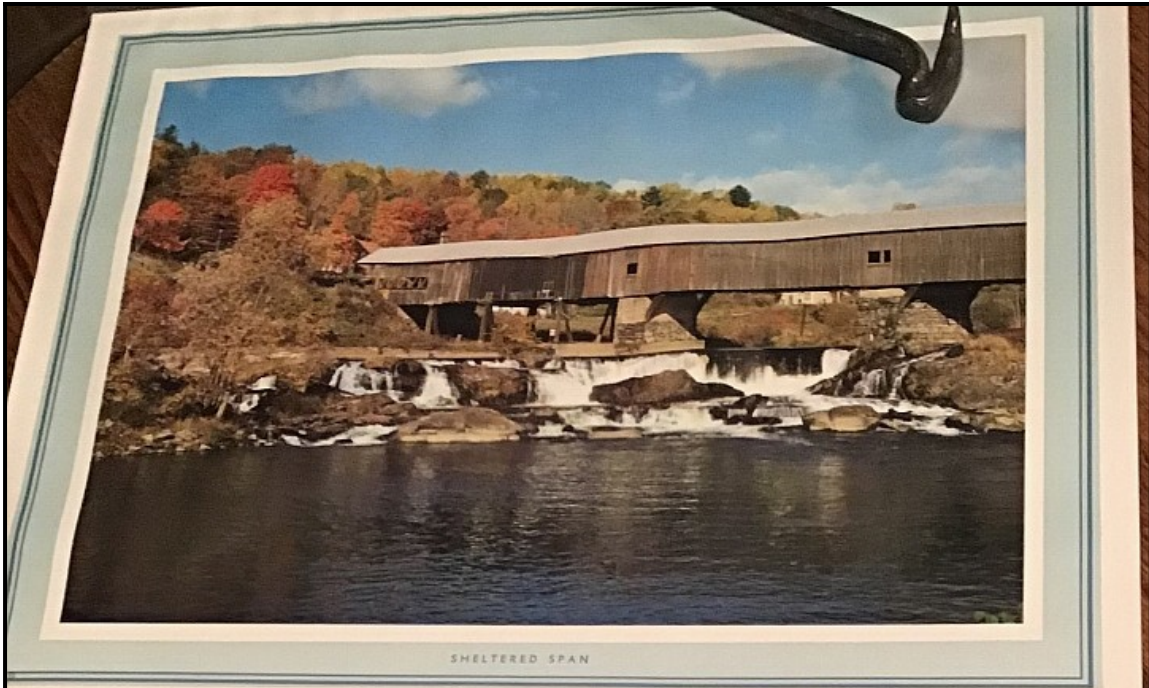












SHELTERED SPAN

HONEGGERS & CO., INC.

HOME OFFICE

Fairbury, Illinois
[815] 692-2331

MILL LOCATIONS

Fairbury,
Illinois
[815] 692-2331

Chelsea,
Michigan
[313] 475-1386

Mount Pleasant,
Michigan
[517] 772-2964

SHELTERED SPAN

...is the best ...
...country ...
...high hills ...
...covered bridge ...
...more wonderful.

...around their way, bringing families home from ...
...on Saturday, ...
...who had ...
...hill. Covered bridges provided the pathway that took ...
...them away from home, but always brought them back ...
...occasionally to ...

...operations ago, ...
...time, about time ...
...of food. Even though ...
...little changed, it is still as the ...
...the busy and ...

Fred M. Dale is a freelance photographer who ...
...specializes in large format stock photography. ...
...Dale has won numerous awards for his work. His ...
...pictures have appeared in a number of ...

CALENDAR FOR 1980

1979 1980 1981

BIG H FEED





Clarence Cox

Jack Tomlison





Looking East on Locust Street



Clarence S. Bell, right, Honegger company president, receives his 5 year pin from Robert Skypson.

19 Get Service Pins As Honeggers' Fetes 199 Employees

C. S. Bell presents awards to:



Don Steidinger ... 20 years



William Jenkins ... 20 years



Joyce Huber ... 20 years



Richard Miller ... 15 years



P. (Bud) Goslin ... 15 years



Paul Thomas ... 5 years



Marshall Kahrer ... 5 years



Robert Curtis ... 5 years



Arlene Hallock ... 5 years



Bernard Corvis ... 3 years



William Goslin ... 3 years



Diane Rieger ... 3 years



John Mehrkens ... 3 years



Weldon Brydon ... 3 years



Raymond Mohler 3 years

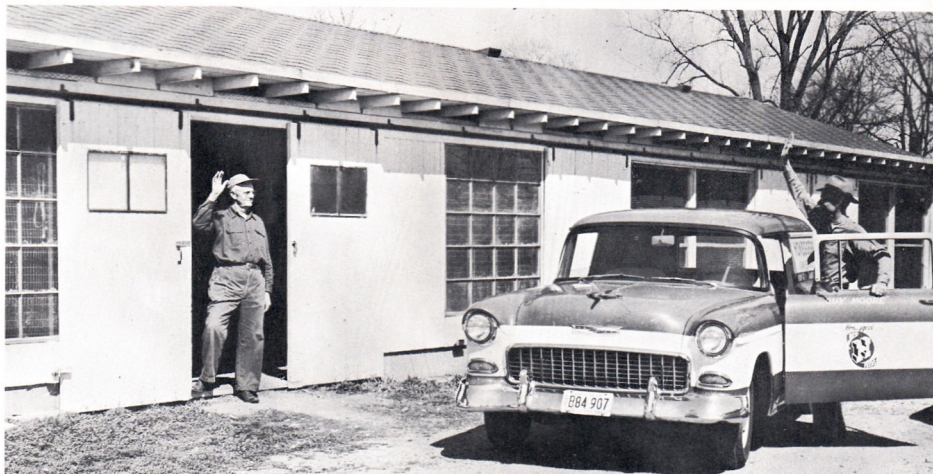


Charles Sate ... 3 years



Wayne Hish at the new Mill





Mr. Dan Huber, shown in the doorway of his Honegger Poultry House, likes the friendly service he receives from Guy Moore, his Honegger Farm Serviceman. Huber Poultry Farm, Fairbury, has more than 2,000 Honegger Leghorns.

Your Honegger Farm Serviceman Offers:

SERVICE THAT COUNTS

Livingston County farmers agree that today's farming can be mighty complex. This is especially true when you run into stresses, where growth stimulants, antibiotics, rumen bacteria, and the like are needed to assure high profits. That's why it's nice to know that you can call upon your friendly Honegger Farm Serviceman to help you with your poultry and livestock feeding problems. He's trained to assist farmers earn

the highest income possible from animal agriculture. And he has Honeggers' staff of specialists to back him up when he runs into a real puzzler.

Many farmers say their Honegger Farm Serviceman is a real partner in their farm operations. He's the man who can supply you with Honegger Leghorns, Big "H" Feeds and Honegger Farm Buildings.

HONEGGER'S' BIG 3 PROFIT PROGRAM

HONEGGER LEGHORNS

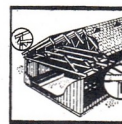


On-the-farm records supervised by the University of Illinois on 41,766 Honegger Leghorns during the 8-year period, 1947-1954, show an average yearly income of \$4.23 a hen above the feed and chick costs.



BIG "H" FEEDS

There's a quality Big "H" Feed formulated for every feeding need and farm-proved at Honeggers' 600 acre research farm. Honeggers' complete feeding programs have meant far greater profits for farmers everywhere.



HONEGGER FARM BUILDINGS

Poultry Houses, hog houses, machine sheds, utility buildings and milk houses . . . a complete line of farm buildings designed for maximum efficiency and economy.



HONEGGER
Leghorns

HONEGGER'S

FEED & MILLING DIV., FAIRBURY, ILL. • HATCHERY DIV., FORREST, ILL.



References

All references used in this story were identified at the point they were used in the story.

Recommended Reading

1969 Dennis Eversizer ISU Thesis on Honeggers. A paper copy is available at the Fairbury Echoes Museum. A digital PDF copy is available at Archive.Org.

Web Sites

The Blade archives are free to access at the Fairbury Dominy Memorial Library web site. The Pantagraph archives require an annual fee to access.



Dale C. Maley

Author Spotlight

Dale C. Maley is the author of the book ***Index Mutual Funds: How to Simplify Your Financial Life and Beat the Pros.*** He was also a contributing author to Chapter 18 in the 2009 book ***The Bogleheads Guide to Retirement Planning.*** Dale is a very successful private investor who has been a student of Financial Planning and Investing for over 33 years.

He was trained as an engineer at the University of Illinois and has been a practicing engineer for 36 years. His accomplishments as an engineer include the granting of 16 U.S. Patents and authorship of over 535 professional technical papers. He is also a member of the International Society of Automotive Engineers and the Society of Manufacturing Engineers.

Dale earned an MBA (Masters Degree in Business Administration) degree from Illinois State University. Dale became a Registered Financial Advisor in the State of Illinois in 2006. He works part-time as a fee-only financial planner. He is President of Maley Financial Planning.

One of Dale's hobbies is history, including the history of Fairbury, Illinois. He has given many lectures to local Fairbury community groups about the history of Fairbury. Dale is Vice-President of the Fairbury Echoes Museum and President of the Livingston County Historical Society. Both Dale and his wife are 5th generation citizens of Fairbury.

* * * * *

Also by Dale C. Maley

Fairbury History Books

Coal Mining in Fairbury, Illinois.

Fairbury, Illinois from Prehistoric to Modern Times.

Fairbury, Illinois in the Civil War.

Fairbury, Illinois in the World Wars.

Livingston County Historical Society: It's Beginning and Some Later Years with Updates.

The Founding of Fairbury, Illinois.

The Goudy Brothers of Fairbury, Illinois.

The Kring Family of Fairbury, Illinois.

The McDowell Family of Fairbury, Illinois.

Walton Bros. Of Fairbury, Illinois.

History of Murders Committed in Fairbury, Illinois.

Fairbury, Illinois Book Authors.

Fairbury, Illinois in 1888.

Fairbury, Illinois and the 1893 Chicago Columbian Exposition.

Fairbury, Illinois History Stories.

William T. Stackpole of Fairbury, Illinois.

William T. Stackpole's 1849 Journey from Illinois to the California Gold Fields.

Investing Books

Index Mutual Funds: How to Simplify Your Financial Life and Beat the Pro's

How Asset Allocation Can Help You Achieve Your Financial Goals

Frequently Asked Questions & Answers about ETF's and Index Funds

Why We Don't Save Enough for Retirement and How You Can Save More

Are You Using the Right Rules to Plan Your Retirement?

How to Use Psychology to Achieve Your Financial Goals

Should Immediate Annuities Be a Tool in Your Retirement Planning Toolbox?

Who Wins the Variable Annuity Versus Mutual Fund Battle?

Will Your Children or Uncle Sam Inherit Your Estate?

What Are the Requirements for Becoming a Financial Planner?

Sell My Stocks Before the Baby Boomers Crash the Market?

How Do I Determine If I Have Saved Enough to Retire?

Don't Max Out My 401K?

Will Reverse Mortgages Be the Salvation of Baby Boomer Retirees?

Do I Need Ten, Twenty, or Thirty Times My Income to Retire?

How to Find a Good Financial Planner

Total Market or Slice-n-Dice for My Investment Portfolio?

What Safety Factor Are You Using for Your Retirement Plan?

How Much Income Do I Really Need in Retirement?

What Lessons Can We Learn from the Crash of 2008?

How to Invest for Retirement after the Crash of 2008

Rules-of-thumb or Retirement Planning Software?

Is Portfolio Rebalancing Worth It?

Do I Need Umbrella Insurance?

Got My First Job and How Do I Handle the 401K?

Are Black Swans Really Harmful to Ordinary Investors?

Should My Asset Allocation Include My Pension and Social Security?

Should I Pay Off My Mortgage Early?

How Does My Asset Allocation Compare to Everyone Else?

How Do I Maximize Retirement Income From My Portfolio?

Is Saving 10% of My Gross Income Good Enough?

Contribute to My Bad 401K or Go Taxable?

Do I Need an Investment Policy Statement?

Do I Need Long-Term Care Insurance?

Do I Need Long-Term Disability Insurance?

How to Read Your Way to Financial Wealth

How Do I Select the Correct Risk Level for My Portfolio?

How Do I Estimate Retirement Living Expenses?